

Mission

Your Hometown

JULY / AUGUST 2012

Outdoor cooking & entertaining

The Gamesons enjoy grilling and sharing recipes with their Countryside neighbors

The work and home of Brad Bittiker

Remodeler transforms houses in the area

The McLadies at McDonald's

St. Pius X group continues 20-plus-year tradition



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It's a beautiful day in my neighborhood

Ahhh.....don't you just love summer? Even though it can be hot, hot, hot in July and August, it can be the time you just sit back, relax, grab a good book, go to the Mission pool and not be on the go so much.

Early mornings, when I take my walk before it gets too hot, I often marvel at the charm and beauty of our homes and neighborhoods in Mission; kids riding their bikes, people washing their cars, neighbors working in their yards and walkers passing by as we comment — "What a beautiful day this is."

As you walk or drive through Mission, take an extra minute and notice the beautiful homes and mature landscaping in the Countryside Homes Association neighborhood. Countryside is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year and longtime resident Jacque Gameson, who graciously agreed to be our cover girl, is sharing some of the neighborhood's favorite recipes with us.

Our feature this month is the home of Brad and Teresa Bittiker, a 10-year-old teardown that fits right in with the beauty of the well-established neighborhood of Countryside. Besides beautiful neighborhoods, we also have good neighbors in Mission. We are highlighting Trinity Lutheran Church, which provides many programs that help our entire community. This summer the church is partnering with Harvesters and Feeding America to offer free lunches for children ages 18 and under in our community. You can't get better neighbors than that!

And if it gets too hot outside, head to McDonald's on Johnson Drive for a cool drink (or the senior coffee for just 33 cents) and camaraderie like the McLadies have been doing for more than 20 years.

Mission is family! So join us as we celebrate at our Mission Family Picnic, July 14th, in Broadmoor Park. It is our feeling of community that makes Mission so great. We couldn't be this great big "family community" without all of the sub communities that make us who we are. So, go outside, walk around your neighborhood, talk to your neighbors and enjoy your summer!

Suzie Gibbs

Mission Convention and Visitors Bureau Chair
Councilmember, Ward IV

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Jacque Gameson with 5-Cent Hershey Dreams

PHOTO BY BEN McCALL

Mission

Your Hometown

JULY / AUGUST 2012

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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, or the Mission Convention and Visitors Bureau website, www.missioncvb.org.

Introducing 'THE BUSINESS DISTRICT' in Mission *Your Hometown*



MISSION MUNICIPAL POOL
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Summer Pool Hours
May 25 - August 12, 2012
Monday - Saturday 12:00pm - 8:00pm
Sunday 12:00pm - 6:00pm

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Tuesdays / Thursdays / Saturdays
June 12 - August 11, 2012
9:30 - 11:30am
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*10% discount for SPJCC members

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Information based on Mission Residents only.
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\$2

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Sylvester Powell Jr. Community Center at 6200 Marway • Mission, KS • 66202 • 913.722.8200




THE BUSINESS DISTRICT

Get wild with SPJCC this summer!

Help celebrate Parks & Recreation month with SPJCC this July! Public parks and recreation systems, including the City of Mission, are dedicated to enhancing the quality of life through recreation in communities around the country and conservation efforts. Parks, recreation activities and leisure experiences provide opportunities for young people to live, grow and develop into contributing members of society; create lifelines and continuous life experience for older members of the community; and generate opportunities for people to come together and experience a sense of community!

We have a variety of health and wellness classes you can experience each and every month at SPJCC. Or you can take a walk or bike ride on one of Mission's beautiful trails or take a dip in the Mission Municipal Pool.

Then we have our fabulous special events. You don't want to miss our annual Mission Family Picnic on July 14 at Broadmoor Park. Music lovers will enjoy Aqua Jams on July 18 at the Mission Municipal Pool where they can hear a performance by Sugar Free All Stars. Family games is the theme, of course, for Free Family Game Night on July 27 at Broadmoor Park. Last but not least, in honor of National Frozen Dessert Month in August, all SPJCC members and daily fee patrons can enjoy a mid-afternoon sundae from 1 to 2 p.m. on Aug. 31. There's always something fun to do at SPJCC. Check us out by calling 913-722-8200, visiting www.sylvesterpowell.com or stopping by SPJCC at 6200 Marway in Mission.

ADVERTISE IN MISSION: YOUR HOMETOWN MAGAZINE & we will write about your business!

Mission: Your Hometown Magazine loves our advertisers! In an effort to better show our appreciation and our support for these fine Mission businesses, we will begin showcasing two advertisers in each issue on our special "The Business District" page. Our new "The Business District" feature will appear in every Mission: Your Hometown Magazine beginning in September.

Each of these features will be short and sweet. In just 200 words we will spotlight the very best of your business. We'll even use a photo or maybe even your logo! You can see just exactly what we mean when you read the story above about

the City of Mission's superb Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center.

Placement on this special feature page will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. To get on the list, advertisers should contact advertising executive Angie Riffel at 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 10. No advertiser will have a chance to get on the list prior to that date and time.

Mission businesses do not want to miss this opportunity to be a part of this special "The Business District" page. To learn more about this exciting opportunity and to learn more about advertising in Mission: Your Hometown Magazine, contact Angie Riffel at 913-951-8446.

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check (battery, air filter, fluid,
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Make plans to join us for a


GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

for improvements designed to enhance transit service along the
Metcalf/Shawnee Mission Parkway Corridor.

JULY 18, 2012
8:30 A.M.

**THE SITE OF THE FUTURE
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The transit center is just one of many improvements along the Shawnee Mission Parkway and Metcalf Corridors that are made possible through \$10.7 million in grant funds. At the ceremony, you will learn more about those improvements, see renderings of the transit center and typical transit stops, and receive updates on the project. The work is being completed in partnership with the Mid-America Regional Council, Johnson County Transit, and the cities of Mission, Overland Park and Roeland Park.



JOHNSON COUNTY TRANSIT • MARC • MISSION • OVERLAND PARK • ROELAND PARK

OLSSON ASSOCIATES

Area Dentist Now Offers 3-D Digital Imaging

*Providing Safer, Faster, Better Diagnostic Pictures
Reduces or Eliminates Need for Exploratory Oral Surgery*

(Mission, KS) Dr. Tom Shortell, a Mission-area dentist, recently acquired a 3-D state-of-the-art digital imaging system and has now incorporated this new technology into his ultra-modern dental facility.

Dr. Shortell's 3-D Cone Beam CT scans produce precise, high-definition, three-dimensional images using significantly less exposure than medical C' scans.

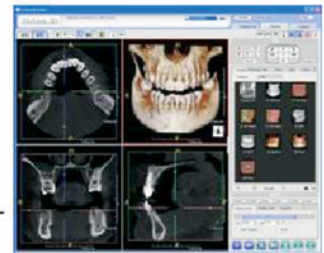
When asked how this affects patients, Dr. Shortell commented, "The hi-def, 3-D images greatly enhance my diagnostic abilities when compared to traditional 2-D digital x-rays. It gives both me and my patients a better view of the areas of interest, and the ability to easily explain and show patients why and where their dental problems may be originating."

3-D images, similar to those produced by Dr. Shortell's *PreXion3D Cone Beam Scanner*, can be rotated 360° and allow him to move through "slices" of the image, viewing any specific area from any angle, significantly improving diagnosis, to better ensure proper treatment can be achieved.

In less than one minute, the scan is completed, comfortably and safely. The digital images are then displayed on a screen for review, diagnosis and accurate treatment planning. High-definition images reveal critical anatomy such as nerves, root structures on teeth, bone, decay, implants, other dental work and the sinus area.



PreXion3D



What's more, the scans produced can reduce or eliminate the need for exploratory surgery. Dental 3-D CT systems such as Dr. Shortell's, are used in a wide range of dental specialties and procedures, including oral surgery, dental implant planning, TMJ analysis, airway studies (sleep apnea), impacted teeth, periodontal disease and endodontic anomalies.

For more information on 3-D CT imaging in dentistry, contact Dr. Tom Shortell's office, at 5930 Roe Avenue, Suite 200, in Mission. They can also be reached via phone at 913-432-8700 or at www.DrShortell.com. For more information on 3-D CBCT scanning, visit www.prexion.com

Your Neighborhood Bar!

We're Celebrating Our 1st Anniversary!

Friday, July 20th - 8pm

**"White Trash
Birthday Bash"**

Saturday, July 21st - 8pm

**"Bringing Back
the 80s"**

Sunday, July 22nd - 3pm

"Detox then Retox"

- 12 HD Flatscreen TVs • Pool & Darts • Shuffleboard and Foosball • Pizza, Nachos, Wings and more
- New patio out back • Live music on weekends
- Happy Hour EVERY DAY 3-6pm (Starting July 1st)

Live Trivia Every Tuesday from 7-9pm



**5436 Johnson Drive
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Cooking in

Jim and Jacque Gameson like to fire up the grill and share recipes with their neighborhood friends

BY HEATHER SWAN • PHOTOS BY BEN MCCALL

One of the first purchases Jim and Jacque Gameson made as a couple was a \$100 grill. That grill — purchased from the Gas Service Company's retail outlet formerly located on Johnson Drive in Mission — was called into action many a time over its 35 years of service. Even ice storms were no match for that trusty old grill or the Gamesons' love for outdoor cooking. (They just chiseled the ice off so they could still use it.)

The story of their \$100 grill is a testament to the Gamesons' longtime love for outdoor cooking and entertaining. If you want to find this couple at their house in the Countryside Homes Association, a good place to start would be out back.

"This is more of our kitchen than that is," said Jacque, while sitting on her deck and pointing inside.

Jacqué describes Jim as "the fun cook," while she is the "utilitarian." He generally grills on their new Broilmaster grill or smokes the meat; she takes on the side dishes (often using herbs and vegetables from their garden). This cooking arrangement works and has resulted in many tasty meals.

IN THE PURSUIT OF FLAVOR

Jim's interest in cooking was cranked up to high when he retired from Bayer Agricultural Division in 2006.

"I was tired of food being bland," he said. "...I wanted to try different things and I had the time to do it."

He enjoys the challenge of researching recipes on the Internet and experimenting with them at home — especially on the grill.

One recipe that has become a favorite is pancakes, made outside on the grill, of course. Jim modified a recipe he found online and makes whole-wheat pancakes from scratch with help from Bob's Red Mill whole wheat graham flour along with honey instead of sugar. His other grilled creations include pizza, a volcano onion (like what's made at Japanese restaurants) and french fries.

"It's a mainstay," Jim said of his grill. "We use it at least once a day. It's so easy. And the clean-up ... there's nothing to it."

The beauty of Jim's experimentation and non-measuring technique is that no two meals are ever alike, and that's just the way the Gamesons like it.

THE TIPSY CHICKEN

Jim liked the idea of "beer can chicken" — where you grill or roast a whole chicken while it is "standing" on a can of beer. This method keeps the chicken moist and makes it very flavorful. But he wasn't sure he liked the idea of actually using the beer can because he worried that the chemicals in the ink from the outside of the can could transfer to their food.

About 15 years ago, Jim saw the Topsy Chicken cooker in a magazine for \$29.95. (This contraption is a reusable version of the beer can method. Imagine an aluminum tube — about the size of a beer can — welded to a base to keep it steady.) But he thought the device was just a little too expensive. After a search online, he found the same cooker and two containers of the company's seasoning for \$19.99, and he was sold. (They now sell for \$24.95.)

The Gamesons have had fun with their Topsy Chicken cooker ever since, and it has served as a conversation starter when guests see their chicken dinner standing on the grill.

"He is just sitting there waiting to be eaten," Jacque said.

The Gamesons have experimented with different liquids in the base. (They don't like using beer; they prefer white wine and the company's seasoning. See page 10 for recipe.)

And they have given several Topsy Chicken cookers as gifts. During some family get-togethers, everyone brings their cooker and three or four chickens are perched on the grill for dinner.

"It's been a fun item," Jim said. "It's very simple, but it works."

Countryside

SHARING COUNTRYSIDE RECIPES

Along with its curved and hilly streets, its homes of various styles and its mature landscaping, the Countryside Homes Association has become a place where neighbors connect through cooking.

"In our 37 years of activities and community events with Countryside friends and neighbors, many great recipes have been shared," Jacque said.

Many of those recipes are collected after they are sampled at neighborhood events and potlucks, such as the Countryside Homes Association Annual Meetings and Octoberfests. The Countryside Homes Association has been going strong for 75 years, even after the City of Countryside merged with the City of Mission in 2003.

Countryside's potluck events — where each street is responsible for bringing a different food — give residents a chance to show off some of their favorite dishes and get good recipes in return.

If neighbors/friends eat something yummy at a potluck, phones begin ringing shortly thereafter (or emails are sent) with requests for the recipe, said Jacque, who is chairman of Mission's Tree Board and was a member of the Countryside Homes Association Board for 23 years (21 as treasurer).

The Orzo Spinach Salad (see page 11 for recipe) became a favorite after Rachel McKay served it following a Countryside Homes Association Clean-Up Day one spring.

"It was such an elegant salad for people with dirty hands," Jacque said.

The salad is perfect for summertime gatherings because it's served at room temperature and has a fresh, lemony flavor.

Another Countryside favorite is the 5-Cent Hershey Dreams from Rosemary Lee. (See page 11 for recipe.) This easy dessert has a chocolatey "frosting" thanks to the 10 Hershey's bars you put on top as soon as the bottom layer comes out of the oven.



Jim and Jacque Gameson, who have lived in the Countryside Homes Association since 1975, enjoy outdoor cooking and entertaining.

Countryside Recipes



Cajun 'Topsy Chicken'

Note: Jim and Jacque Gameson use a "Topsy Chicken" cooker and seasoning that can be purchased at www.tipsychicken.com. The Gamesons use white wine as the liquid in the cooker cup along with the seasoning they get from the company. (See step 7.) The manufacturer recommends that people "be creative" with the liquid because whatever is put in the cooker cup will flavor the chicken through steaming.

1. Use 1 whole chicken — 3 ½ to 4 pounds.
2. Remove giblets from chicken.
3. Trim excess fat. Remove skin if desired. (The Gamesons remove the skin from the entire chicken except the legs and put the seasoning directly on the meat for a leaner meal.)
4. Rinse chicken under cold water.
5. Rub chicken with vinegar and sprinkle seasoning over entire chicken, inside and out.
6. For easy clean-up, spray cooker first with nonstick cooking spray such as PAM.
7. Fill Topsy Chicken cooker with a cup of the liquid of your choice (beer or wine, beer or wine mixed with seasoning, liquid seasoning mixed with beer or wine, pineapple juice, water and liquid seasoning, water and Worcestershire sauce, etc.)
8. Place chicken over Cajun Topsy Chicken Cooker cup. (Insert cup inside chicken cavity.)
9. Build adequate fire in your barbecue pit. The chicken can also be prepared in an oven at 350 degrees (place a catch pan under the cooker in the oven) or in a gas grill on medium setting.
10. Cook in a closed pit depending on fire and size of chicken for approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes to 2 hours. (The Gamesons cook their chicken on a gas grill at 400 degrees for 45 minutes to 1 hour.)

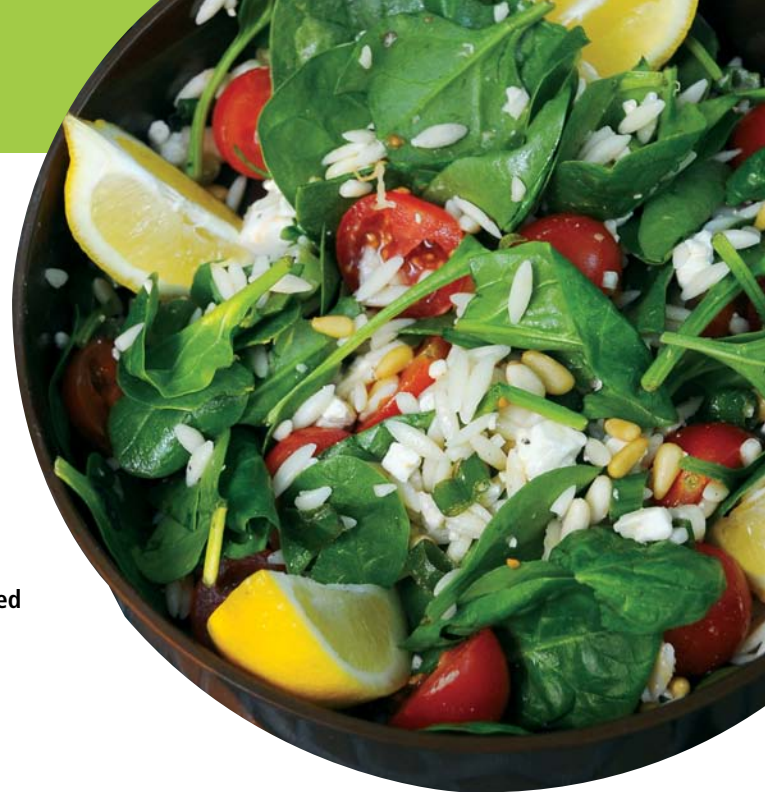
Orzo Spinach Salad

Note: This salad was served by Rachel McKay, a former Countryside resident, in the driveway of the McKay home on 62nd Terrace to Countryside volunteers after a Countryside Homes Association Clean-Up Day organized by her husband, Marc.

- 1 package (6 ounces) uncooked orzo pasta
- Juice of 2 fresh lemons
- ¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 8 cups baby spinach leaves
- 1 cup crumbled feta cheese
- 1 cup minced scallions (both green and white portions)
- 4 cups cherry tomatoes, halved
- ¼ cup pine nuts
- ¼ cup finely chopped fresh parsley
- 3 tablespoons finely chopped fresh basil
- ½ teaspoon salt (optional)
- Cracked pepper (if desired)
- Lemon wedges to garnish

Cook orzo according to package directions, drain, set aside. In large bowl, whisk together lemon juice and extra-virgin olive oil. Add to warm orzo and then cool to room temperature.

Toss pasta mixture with spinach, feta, scallions, tomatoes, pine nuts, parsley and basil. Season with salt and pepper if desired. Serve at room temperature garnished with lemon wedges.



5-Cent Hershey Dreams

Note: This recipe came from Rosemary Lee, a Countryside resident, who served this dessert at a Concerned Citizens of Countryside meeting and numerous Countryside annual meetings. Two-ounce Hershey's bars (that are used in this recipe) were 5 cents in 1937, the year the Countryside Homes Association was founded. Because of inflation, this recipe is a little more expensive to make now. Today, these candy bars cost about 99 cents each unless you find them on sale or in multipacks.

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 2 cups brown sugar
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 ½ cups flour
- Ten 2-ounce Hershey's bars
- Nuts (optional)

Mix butter and brown sugar together. Add egg yolk and flour. Spread mixture in jelly roll pan and bake at 375 degrees for 10-15 minutes. After baking, immediately put the 10 Hershey's bars on top, so they melt. (It is recommended that you unwrap the Hershey's bars and have them ready to go before you pull the pan out of the oven.) Sprinkle with nuts if desired.

Mission Bulletin Board



Karin & Ken Capron, far right, recently received the Mission 2011 Championship Tree award for their flowering dogwood in the 5400 block of Horton. The winning tree was one of two free flowering dogwood seedlings the Caprons received from the Kansas Forest Service at an Earth Day activity at Shawnee Mission Park in 1995. Pictured with them, from left, are Al Crumly, member of the Mission Tree Board; Mayor Laura McConwell and Jacque Gameson, chairman of the Mission Tree Board.



Imagination starts here

MISSION ART WALK

July 13 and Aug. 10 (5 to 9 p.m.)

On Woodson between Johnson Drive & Martway
ARTISTS from the Kansas City area will show their talents in a variety of art media. Sponsored by the Mission businesses, they invite you to join them for an evening of art, entertainment, food and drink.

MUSIC by DJ Alexander Hartman of Bassline Beats Productions

FOOD from RJ's Bob-Be-Que Shack, which is cooking up something different for each event

DONATE your old bike to FreeWheelsKC at the July Art Walk.

Still time for interested artists to register; no fee required. Visit www.missionartwalk.com for details.



MISSION FAMILY PICNIC

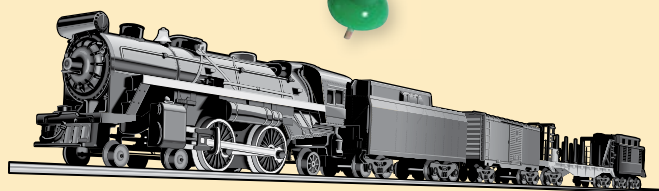
July 14 • 6 p.m. to dusk

Broadmoor Park, 57th & Broadmoor

Free hot dogs, chips, soda/water and ice cream

Entertainment includes:

- 6 p.m. Samantha Fish performs
- 7:30 p.m. Consolidated Fire District No. 2 sprays
- 8 p.m. DJ performs
- 9:15 p.m. Fireworks display



Turkey Creek Division Annual Model Train Show

Saturday, July 14 • 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Shawnee Mission North High School

Admission: \$6 at the door (\$5 w/NMRA membership card)

Children under 12 free with paid registration

Door prizes, modeling clinics and workshops, display layouts and tours, swap tables, model and photo contest, youth award

MEETING NOTICE

Mission City Council Meetings:
7 p.m. at City Hall
July 18, 2012 &
Aug. 15, 2012

GARAGE SALE

GREAT AMERICAN GARAGE SALE TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

July 26 to 28 • Shawnee Mission Parkway and Nall
Thurs., 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Trinity Youth will serve dinner)
Fri., 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. & Sat., 8 a.m. to noon

All proceeds to 21 charities. Questions? Want to donate?
Call Nancy Meyer at 913-722-1869

"Whatever you want, we probably have it."



Highlands Elementary School held a celebration in honor of kindergarten teacher Debbie Graff-Utterback on her birthday, April 26. Graff-Utterback, who taught at Highlands for 24 years, died unexpectedly earlier in April. The celebration included the release of about 300 pink (her favorite color) balloons, proclamations from the cities of Mission, Fairway and Prairie Village, and Fluffy Fresh doughnuts (her favorite morning treat).



The Rushton Elementary School PTA recently presented Kansas PTA Life Membership awards to Mission City Administrator Mike Scanlon, left, and Mission Ward IV City Councilmember Suzie Gibbs, right, who is also a Rushton grandparent. Deborah Rushing, Rushton PTA president, center, presented the awards to Scanlon and Gibbs in honor of their ongoing contributions to Rushton Elementary and their service on behalf of its students, staff and PTA.

Diamond Finish Car Wash

5960 Barkley St. Mission, KS 66202

913-236-6886

HOURS: Mon-Sat 8-7 • Sun 8-5

www.diamondfinishwash.com

EXTERIOR ONLY SPECIAL

\$5 Reg. \$7

Basic Exterior Wash includes: Towel dry and door jams wiped down. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 08/28/12.

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Includes basic full service wash, plus wheel cleaner, white wall scrub, underbody wash, clearcoat protectant, triple clearcoat polish, tire dressing & machine mat cleaning. Additional charge for larger vehicles. Over-sized charge may apply. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 08/28/12.

HAND WAX

\$10 OFF Reg. \$49.95

Includes a hand wax. Additional Charge for larger vehicles. Over-sized charge may apply. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 08/28/12.

DIAMOND 1 PROFESSIONAL DETAIL

25% OFF Any Professional Detail

Complete interior shampoo, all floor mats, carpeting, upholstered seats, or clean & conditions leather seats. All interior vinyl is cleaned & conditioned. See cashier for more details. Over-sized charge may apply. Not valid with any other offers. Exp. 08/28/12.

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MISSION

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SUE'S ACCESSORIES



50% OFF Selected items only
w/ this advertisement
Coupon Expires Aug. 30, 2012

5440 Martway • Mission, Kansas
Next to Herb Garden in the Mission Mart Shopping Center
Tuesday - Saturday 1:00-7:00pm
or call Sue at (913) 710-9696



CITY OF MISSION

Newsletter

JULY / AUGUST 2012
VOLUME 8, ISSUE 3
WWW.MISSIONKS.ORG

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The school year is over and summer activities are in full swing. I hope that your summer is shaping up as a time to spend a little more time relaxing and enjoying family and friends. For me, this summer is the start of a new and exciting chapter for my family as my daughter Elizabeth graduated from high school in May and this fall we will have several children attending college. It makes the summer seem even shorter, but I have had the opportunity to reflect back on our many wonderful years in Mission. It seems like just a few years ago that they were young children — participating in a variety of sports, and enjoying our parks and the pool. The saying “time flies” couldn’t be more true! I have to say this also holds true for our Municipal Outdoor Pool, the future of which we have been studying over the past several years. It may seem hard to believe, but our outdoor pool is now 56 years old.

As I update you on the status of the Outdoor Pool, I want to first thank the members of our Swimming Pool Task Force who spent eight months considering the best possible recommendation for the future of our pool. Members of the task force included Jo Ella Hoye, Mark Sutton, Allen Anderson, Mark Raduziner, Anne O’Leary, Doug Blessing, Nan Frink, Bill McCrea, Rob Simpson, Leslie Gust Herring, Suzanne Sawalich, Jim Sloss, and Shawna Davidson. The Task Force has recommended that we pursue the replacement of our pool and suggested that Council consider a 10-year sales tax to cover the cost. The Parks and Recreation Commission concurred with this recommendation and, at a worksession in May, Council focused on their recommendation and the process ahead. As with any sales tax increase, this is a decision that will have to be made by Mission voters. If Council votes



to send this initiative forward, I would anticipate our sales tax question being placed on the November 6th General Election ballot. In the meantime, as we move forward, I will keep you updated on this process in future newsletters and e-mail newsletters. If you know anyone not yet on our list who would like to receive

my monthly e-mail newsletter, please contact Christy Humerickhouse by emailing her at chumerickhouse@missionks.org.

In this issue of our City Newsletter you will find information on our 2012 Street Program, which is now underway. Maps of those streets scheduled for maintenance are available at www.missionks.org/streets, so please take a moment to review this information. If your street is included in this year’s maintenance program, you will be notified in advance of any work being

done on your street so that you may plan accordingly. I know that this can at times be a little inconvenient, but I also know that improved and well-maintained streets are well worth it!

Finally, I want to introduce and welcome our three new Councilmembers — Pat Quinn, Ward I, Amy Miller, Ward II, and Jennifer Cowdry, Ward III (article on page N4). We look forward to working with them in the coming months and years as they bring us their ideas and those of their constituents. Contact information for all of our councilmembers is available on our website. We are here to serve you so please don’t hesitate to contact us if you have ideas, questions, or concerns.

Sincerely,

Laura L. McConwell

Laura L. McConwell
Mayor



Mayor McConwell celebrated Arbor Day 2012 with Rushton Elementary School second-graders. The students designed a poster, played Tree Trivia, and planted an apple tree at Waterworks Park.



Mission Home to Community Art Events

The City of Mission is home to several art events during the summer and fall months. Mission ArtWalk is held on the second Friday evening of June, July and August, with upcoming ArtWalks set for July 13th and August 10th. These festival-style celebrations of community and creativity are held on Woodson, between Martway and Johnson Drive from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. Each Art Walk includes local artists representing a variety of artistic mediums, as well as music, food and drink — and admission is free! Additional information

for visitors, sponsors, and artists may be found at www.missionartwalk.com.

Mission is also home to the Arts & Eats Festival, sponsored by the Mission Convention & Visitors Bureau. This year's annual event, held in conjunction with our Battle of the Brisket BBQ contest, is scheduled for the weekend of September 14th and 15th near the Community Center. In addition to local arts and crafts, you can enjoy live music, great local food, and many children's activities. Additional information on the Arts & Eats Festival is available at www.sylvesterpowell.com

ROOFING PERMITS

With stormy spring weather behind us and the construction season ahead, the Community Development Department would like to remind homeowners that a roofing permit is required for most roofing work in Mission. A roofing permit for residential projects is required for each roofing job and can typically be issued right over the counter at City Hall. Permits must be obtained before work begins. Work begun without a permit will result in the assessment of a penalty fee, stop work order, and possibly a citation. Roofers must also have the appropriate Johnson Coun-

ty contractor's license in order to pull a permit so homeowners are encouraged to ask about this upfront when shopping for a roofing company. Generally, only one roof inspection is all that is required on a single-family dwelling roof. This is usually done while construction of the roof is in progress with roofing materials being installed. If all of the elements of the roof are not visible at the time of the first inspection, a return inspection may be necessary. To inquire about the permit application process or permit fees, please contact the Community Development Department at 913-676-8360.

PUBLIC SAFETY FACTS: Did you know?

Members of the Mission Police Department often come into contact with citizens who are simply unaware of some safety-related state and city ordinances. This article tries to address a sampling of those rules while shedding light on other important facts.

Did you know it is against City ordinance to park your vehicle on the street for more than 48 hours? Such vehicles pose a challenge for neighbors backing out of their driveways, city workers trying to push snow or sweep streets, and emergency equipment trying to navigate some of our more narrow streets.

Did you know State statute requires you to turn on your headlights whenever it is raining hard enough to warrant the full use of your windshield wipers? (Frankly, anytime the weather causes you to use your wipers you should seriously consider also using your headlights...)

Did you know State statute limits the darkness of window tint you can apply to your vehicle's windows? The law states that window film added to your existing glass must allow no less than 35% of light to pass through them. The Mission Police Department has window tint meters that measure the light transmission percentage. Feel free to stop by the Police Station should you want your auto glass checked.

Did you know Johnson County is home to one of the nation's finest service providers for the victims of domestic violence or partner abuse? You can contact an advocate at SAFEHOME's 24-hour hotline by calling 913-262-2868.

Did you know you have 90 days to register your vehicle(s) and change over your driver's license once you establish residency in Kansas? You establish residency once you register to vote, sign a lease, buy a home, or register your kids in school.

Did you know it is against City ordinance to park an inoperable or unregistered vehicle in your driveway for more than 30 days? "Inside the garage" is the best place to store such "diamonds in the rough."

Did you know our speed limits indicate the maximum safe speed under optimum conditions? Drivers should consider driving at slower speeds whenever the road surfaces are wet or otherwise slippery; whenever visibility is limited due to fog, rain, or darkness; or whenever other hazards, such as families on bicycles or excited children responding to the ice cream truck, are present.

Did you know distracted driving is a leading cause of motor vehicle accidents? State law prohibits the majority of modern cell phone operations by drivers while on public roadways. Drivers can make phone calls, use their device as a navigational aid, and communicate with emergency operators. However, they are prohibited from reading or typing emails, texts, or tweets; searching and selecting music; reading online articles; and most other cell-phone activities. Drivers who want to perform these functions are required to pull off the roadway. Yes, reading and replying to emails while stopped at a traffic signal is a violation of this state law!

Universal Design Home in Mission Now Complete

Recently, City staff toured a complete remodel of a residential home on 61st Street in the Walmer Homestead Subdivision. The home has been renovated to include elements of universal design to accommodate the needs of the elderly and disabled residents who have moved into this home. Universal design is the design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialization. It includes any component of a home that can be used by everyone regardless of their level of ability or disability.

The 1950s home, which was formerly a rental property, was in need of some "TLC" and modernization. As part of the renovation, the owners added the following features:

- A new front porch with stairs and a ramp
- 3-foot wide wheelchair friendly doorways within the home
- A more open loft-like floor plan to allow for improved circulation with no thresholds
- Switches, door handles, and faucet handles that are easy to grasp and operate
- Increased task and general lighting levels

- Safety handles by toilets and showers
- Low entry showers instead of tubs
- A main floor laundry area with front loading machines
- Built-in desk space that allows a wheelchair to roll under the desk
- Garage space for the parking of the resident's bicycle, which is used as primary transportation
- A rear deck built at the same level as the house
- High efficiency heating and cooling system for the comfort of residents, and to control utility costs
- Low-maintenance landscaping

Incorporating these types of universal design elements into your remodeling projects may assist you in remaining in your home longer and improve its desirability to future owners. If you would like additional information on universal design concepts or to discuss specific home improvements you may be considering, please contact our Community Development Department at 913-676-8360. We have a variety of pamphlets and resources available to assist you and can provide information on requirements for building permits.



Street Maintenance Program

Last November, Public Works presented a preliminary report to the City Council's Community Development Committee detailing which streets were expected to be mill and overlaid, which streets would be seal coated, and where curb and gutter repairs would be necessary. Public Works staff recently accepted bids from contractors at a public bid opening and at their May 16th meeting, Council approve contracts with Barkley Asphalt for mill & overlay, and Vance Brothers for slurry seal. Work for these maintenance programs will begin in late June and stretch through the end of July. All properties immediately adjacent to any street maintenance work will be given ample notice of the upcoming work so as to limit inconvenience as much as possible. To see maps depicting work locations, please either visit the street maintenance website at www.missionks.org/streets or call Justin Pregont, project manager, at 913-676-8379.

Look for street maintenance crews to be working around the City in the coming weeks!

Martway Rehabilitation Project (Broadmoor to Woodson)

The Martway Rehabilitation Project will result in new pavement, storm sewers, sidewalks, and wheelchair ramps along the Martway corridor. The street lighting system will be completely revamped to improve safety and pedestrian friendliness. The project will also replace the structurally deficient bridge at the Martway / Woodson intersection. Because this project has federal funding, KDOT must review the project plans and approve the construction contract. Currently, this project is in the right of way and easement acquisition phase. We expect construction to begin sometime between November 2012 and January 2013.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

MISSION'S FAMILY PICNIC is scheduled for Saturday, July 14th at Broadmoor Park. The fun begins at 6:00 p.m. so come join friends and neighbors for a free picnic dinner, music and games! A full schedule of events is available at www.missionks.org

Mission Welcomes New Councilmembers

Following the April 3rd City Council elections, the City of Mission welcomes three new Councilmembers. Our new Councilmembers are Pat Quinn (Ward I), Amy Miller (Ward II), and Jennifer Cowdry (Ward III).

Councilmember Pat Quinn and his family are longtime residents of the City of Mission. He is the owner of American Cycle Escorts located in Mission, which provides motorcycle funeral escorts. Councilmember Quinn is also actively involved in the Wounded Warrior Project, and recently organized both a fund-raising "boot block" event in Mission and the Celtic Thunder Ride to benefit and bring attention to our veterans. Councilmember Quinn serves on the Finance & Administration Committee and is Mission's representative to Northeast Animal Control Commission. He may be reached at 913-927-8511 or pquinn@missionks.org.

Councilmember Amy Miller represents Ward II and serves on the Finance & Administration Committee. She has been a Mission resident since 1991 and a homeowner since 1999, and professionally is the director of the Tax Law and Policy Analysis for the Tax Institute at H&R Block. Councilmember Miller is a graduate of the University of Kansas, and prior to joining H&R Block she worked for

JP Morgan Retirement Plan Services, managing service delivery and quality initiatives. Councilmember Miller may be reached at 913-677-0169 or amiller@missionks.org.

Our new councilmember for Ward III is Jennifer Cowdry. Councilmember Cowdry is a graduate of the University of Missouri, where she received her physical therapy degree, and is currently a manager of physical therapy staff. She has been a Mission homeowner since 1982 and participates in a variety of community service programs, including her church and the City Union Mission monthly support program. Councilmember Cowdry serves on Mission's Community Development Committee and may be reached at 913-384-1263 or jcowdry@missionks.org.

Councilmember David Shepard, Ward IV, was re-elected for another four-year term. He has served on Mission's Council since June 2005 and is currently the Chair of the Finance & Administration Committee. Professionally, he is Vice President of National Sales for iHigh, Inc., and in addition to serving on Mission's City Council, his public service includes Consolidated Fire District #2 Board and the NE Animal Control Commission. Councilmember Shepard may be reached at 913-671-8521 or dshepard@missionks.org



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1st Wednesday every month, 6:30 p.m.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

2nd Wednesday every month, 6:30 p.m.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

3rd Wednesday every month, 7:00 p.m.

COUNCIL WORK SESSIONS

4th Wednesday every month, 7:00 p.m.

All meetings are open to the public. For meeting locations please check the website at www.missionks.org.

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Laura L. McConwell913-722-2670
City Hall Office913-676-8355

COUNCILMEMBERS WARD I

Lawrence Andre913-638-9000
Pat Quinn913-927-8511

COUNCILMEMBERS WARD II

Amy Miller913-677-0169
Will Vandenberg913-424-4357

COUNCILMEMBERS WARD III

Jennifer Cowdry913-384-1263
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Remodeler has an eye for **CHARMING HOMES** *in Northeast Johnson County*

Brad Bittiker has renovated many old houses in the area along with finishing his new home

BY HEATHER SWAN
PHOTOS BY KEVIN BLAYNEY



The Bittikers' home looks like a 1920s traditional two-story Colonial on the outside, but it is really a 10-year-old house with modern-day amenities. Inset Photo: Teresa and Brad Bittiker have lived in their "new" house in the Countryside Homes Association since it was built.



Brad Bittiker has made a career breathing new life into old homes. Ironically, his own house in the Countryside Homes Association in Mission is a new home he finished to look old-fashioned.

It's not as complicated as it may seem. Bittiker, who grew up in Mission and graduated from Shawnee Mission North High School, loves finding properties with charm.

TRANSFORMING THE OLD

Brad Bittiker is partial to Northeast Johnson County. This fondness has led him to renovate and then sell or rent more than 300 homes — mostly in Mission, Roeland Park, Merriam and Fairway — since 1984.

“I love Northeast Johnson County,” he said. “It has great neighborhoods, highway access and is safe.

“...And these houses are better built than the ones in newer suburbs.”

Bittiker and his former crew used to renovate about 20 homes a year. He now takes things a little slower and is more particular about the projects he tackles.

“I’m looking for a home that’s structurally sound with charm in a good neighborhood,” he said. “As I get older, I want the right house in the right neighborhood.”

Bittiker now works as a “one-man show” along with some contractors and is mainly focused on his home rental business, bradrents.com.

He currently rents 28 of his renovated homes, seven of which are in Mission, including one in Countryside.

His renovations and rentals are filling a niche. Bittiker said he has excellent tenants who stay in his homes for a relatively long time.

“It’s a popular area,” he said. “We deal with a lot of medical students, professionals and people in health care.”

Bittiker’s properties are within 10 minutes from downtown Kansas City, Mo., southern Johnson County and the Country Club Plaza, making them attractive to renters in terms of location.

His renovations also benefit the neighborhoods in which they are located. He completely refurbishes his properties with modern color schemes, and he gives kitchens Shaker-style cabinetry and granite countertops. In addition, Bittiker equips his homes with newer mechanical systems for lower utility costs, hardwood floors and new appliances, such as refrigerators, ranges, central

Continued on page 24





To make the home look more old-fashioned, the Bittikers installed touches found in older houses. Many of these features (hardwood floors, European leaded-glass windows, elaborate crown molding and antique light fixtures) are showcased in the home's family room.



The Bittikers' "eclectic" furnishings include a 1927 Wurlitzer jukebox that plays old 78-rpm records.

Continued from page 23

air conditioning and dishwashers.

And a portion of the rental payments he collects goes to The Global Orphan Project Inc., headquartered in Kansas City, Mo.

MIXING SOME OLD WITH THE NEW

How does someone who has a strong interest in renovating old homes come to buy a new house, especially when they are already living in a 1920s Dutch Colonial in Mission?

Brad Bittiker's wife, Teresa, liked the Countryside neighborhood.

"Teresa's dream was to live in this neighborhood," he said. "...She was the main impetus, but it's been a great thing. The neighborhood and the community are just awesome."

They stumbled upon their current home as it was being built. John Holmes,

a former Countryside resident, tore down the little two-bedroom stucco house a few doors down from his own and started construction on a speculative home on the large piece of property.

The Bittikers told the builder to hang the Sheetrock and then stop construction so that Brad and his team could finish it the way his family wanted. The Bittikers' house is still the only "teardown" (a term used to describe a completely new residence where an old house used to be) in the Countryside Homes Association. Their family — including teenage daughters Emily and Elizabeth — have now lived there for 10 years.

As part of their finishes a decade ago, the Bittikers extended the garage to house Brad's hobby of old cars and trucks, and they added the front and back porches.

To make the home look more old-fashioned, they installed touches found in older houses: hardwood floors, European leaded-glass windows, custom trim

The fireplace in the master bedroom has a mantel believed to be from the Muehlebach Hotel. Because it's made of quarter sawn oak, the mantel has a tiger-stripe pattern.



work throughout, two custom fireplace mantels, elaborate crown molding and antique light fixtures. The kitchen has a retro look with a 1950s GE electric range, a replica refrigerator and old-school black-and-white tile on the floor.

The focal point of the master bedroom is the fireplace, which is one of three in the home. This particular fireplace has a mantel believed to be from the Muehlebach Hotel. Because it's made of quarter sawn oak (a technique that's a hallmark of the Arts & Crafts style), the mantel has a tiger-stripe pattern. The master bedroom suite also includes a walk-out porch off the master bedroom and a vintage-inspired master bath with pedestal sinks.

The Bittikers' home looks like a 1920s traditional two-story Colonial home, but Brad describes it as "eclectic" and a "hodgepodge." (The family room houses a 1927 Wurlitzer jukebox that plays old 78-rpm records.)

While their home has accessories and details reminiscent of a previous era, they enjoy the perks of living in a residence with current-day features: 4 bedrooms, 3 ½ baths, new mechanical systems, 9-foot ceilings on the first floor and a finished lower level.

Teresa's favorite parts are the kitchen and the backyard with its redbud trees. Brad's favorite "room" just might be the garage, which is large enough for four vehicles and is heated.

The bottom line is that the Bittikers have the best of both worlds: modern amenities in an established neighborhood.

And it's in an area that suits Brad just fine.

"I am focused on Northeast Johnson County," he said. "I don't want to go anywhere else. I put all my eggs in one basket."

For more information about his business, visit www.bradrents.com or call 913-526-2888.

The second-story master bedroom has a walk-out porch and fireplace.



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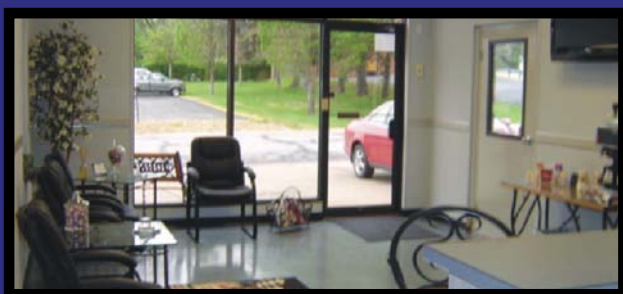
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Sue Massey, far left, general manager of the Mission McDonald's, comes around on a recent Tuesday morning (like many mornings), fills up coffee cups and chats with the McLadies. Pictured next to Massey, from left to right, are Skelly Larson, Irene Roos, Norma Harrington and Mary Ellen Mahr.

The McLadies

— and some McMen —

start their day at the golden arches

For more than 20 years and counting, women from St. Pius X Catholic Church (and a smaller group of husbands) have met for coffee at McDonald's after Mass

By Heather Swan • Photo by Ben McCall

Like clockwork, every weekday morning, booths and tables at the back of McDonald's fill up. That, in itself, is not very unusual. But what makes this particular gathering unique is that some of these same people have been meeting like this every day — Monday through Friday — for more than 20 years.

The McLadies, as they call themselves, go to 8:10 a.m. Mass at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Mission and then meet at McDonald's at 6767 Johnson Drive. Some of their husbands — known as the McMen — join them and sit at a nearby table. (Remember those junior high school dances where the boys and girls huddle separately? That's what this is like, partly because the McMen think the McLadies get too loud.)

Anywhere from two to 18 McLadies go to McDonald's for coffee and conversation each day.

They keep coming back because they like the 33-cent senior coffee (30 cents a cup plus 3 cents for tax) and the camaraderie.

"There are usually five or six conversations going on at the same time," said Ginny Pilarz, one of the newer McLadies.

On any given day, you might hear these snippets of dialogue:

"Are you feeling OK today?"

"I know a good place where you can get your car fixed."

"I didn't sleep very well. My pet/weather kept me awake."

"I went to the dinner theater last night."

"Where can you find (insert any retail product here)?"

Conversations are filled with jokes, caring remarks and concern. And these morning meetings serve as a great way for the women to keep up on current events, community and church activities, and how their common friends in the parish are doing.

If you didn't know any better, you might think that these women are relatives. That is because they think of each other as extended family and their morning chatter sounds a lot like a family dinner table.

This all started in 1990 when a group of St. Pius X parishioners decided they wanted to continue their conversations over coffee after Mass. The only participants of that original group are Irene Roos, who celebrated her 93rd birthday with the McLadies last September, Zita Riedel and her husband, Celly. They used to meet in the former McDonald's building on this site. Now on their second building, the McLadies just keep on meeting.

The McLadies have become an invaluable support group for widows. When a woman in the parish loses her husband, the McLadies invite her to come along ... and she often keeps coming back.

Other current McLadies include Rose Mary Callahan, Dolores Spini, Dee Wellenstein, Margaret McMillen, Jane Churchman, Skelly Larson, Mary Ellen Mahr, Norma Harrington, Fern Schulz, Marcella Fitzpatrick, Judith Mayanja, Frances Thomas, Marge Culp and Enola Porter.

The Mission McDonald's is a popular gathering spot for coffee groups, like the McLadies and retired teachers on Tuesday afternoons.

And that's just the way McDonald's is "lovin' it."

"We want the community to feel comfortable here, like it's their home," said Cassandra Savage, who owns the Mission McDonald's along with her husband, Ken. "We want to be part of this community."



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A good neighbor

BY HEATHER SWAN
PHOTO BY BEN MCCALL

Through its outreach like feeding children lunch this summer, Trinity Lutheran Church continues to serve the community

Passers-by on Shawnee Mission Parkway know Trinity Lutheran Church for its cross and electronic sign, but the church also strives to give back to the community.

Many people know Trinity Lutheran Church as “the church with the sign” or “the church with the cross.” However you refer to it, Trinity Lutheran has been a recognizable landmark as well as a cornerstone of the community since 1952, when it was built on the northwest corner of Shawnee Mission Parkway and Nall Avenue. (Before that, the church was located on Nall north of Johnson Drive near the border of Mission and Roeland Park.)

Trinity Lutheran Church, 5601 W. 62nd St., benefits from a visible location; approximately 50,000 cars drive by it every day on Shawnee Mission Parkway.

But the church also strives to give back and be a good neighbor. Back when it was the only non-residential property in the City of Countryside, the church served as Countryside’s city hall and civic center. Now a part of the City of Mission, Trinity Lutheran continues its community involvement.

“They have been gracious to let us use their parking lot for police department activities like our DUI check lanes,” said Lt. Kirk Lane, who coordinates the DUI check lanes with Sgt. Ron Ruhlessin for the Mission Police Department.

The police department has three DUI check lanes a year, which are funded by the Kansas Department of Transportation. The Trinity Lutheran parking lot is one of the locations the police department uses because of its ideal location to safely pull drivers off Shawnee Mission Parkway and then get them back on the road again.

“I really cherish our relationship we have with them,” Lane said. “They have the community in their best interest.”

Lee Hovel, senior pastor at Trinity Lutheran, describes the

church as a “servant community.”

“We have been called to serve,” he said. “We want to be vitally involved with our community.

“...This church is to be part of the community, not set apart.”

Other ways the church is a “good neighbor” include:

- The church’s Great American Garage Sale earns about \$30,000 each year with proceeds going to mission trips and local agencies. (See Bulletin Board on page 13 for information about this year’s garage sale.)
- It serves as a voting site during elections.
- The church is home to a fine arts academy, where art, drama, writing and music classes are taught.
- Its concert series is open to the public.
- The church is available for community use.
- Parishioners bring in school supplies for area schoolchildren, and Trinity Lutheran donates the supplies to local schools, such as Rushton Elementary.
- This summer, the church is partnering with Harvesters and Feeding America to offer free lunches for children ages 18 and under in the community. The lunches will be served every Monday (except July 9) from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Andersen Park by Mission City Hall as well as from 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. from July 9 to 13 during its Vacation Bible School at the church. There is no registration, income or residency requirements.

“We open our arms wide to serve our community,” Hovel said.

For more information, call Trinity Lutheran Church at 913-432-5441 or visit the website at tlcms.org.

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August 13, 2012

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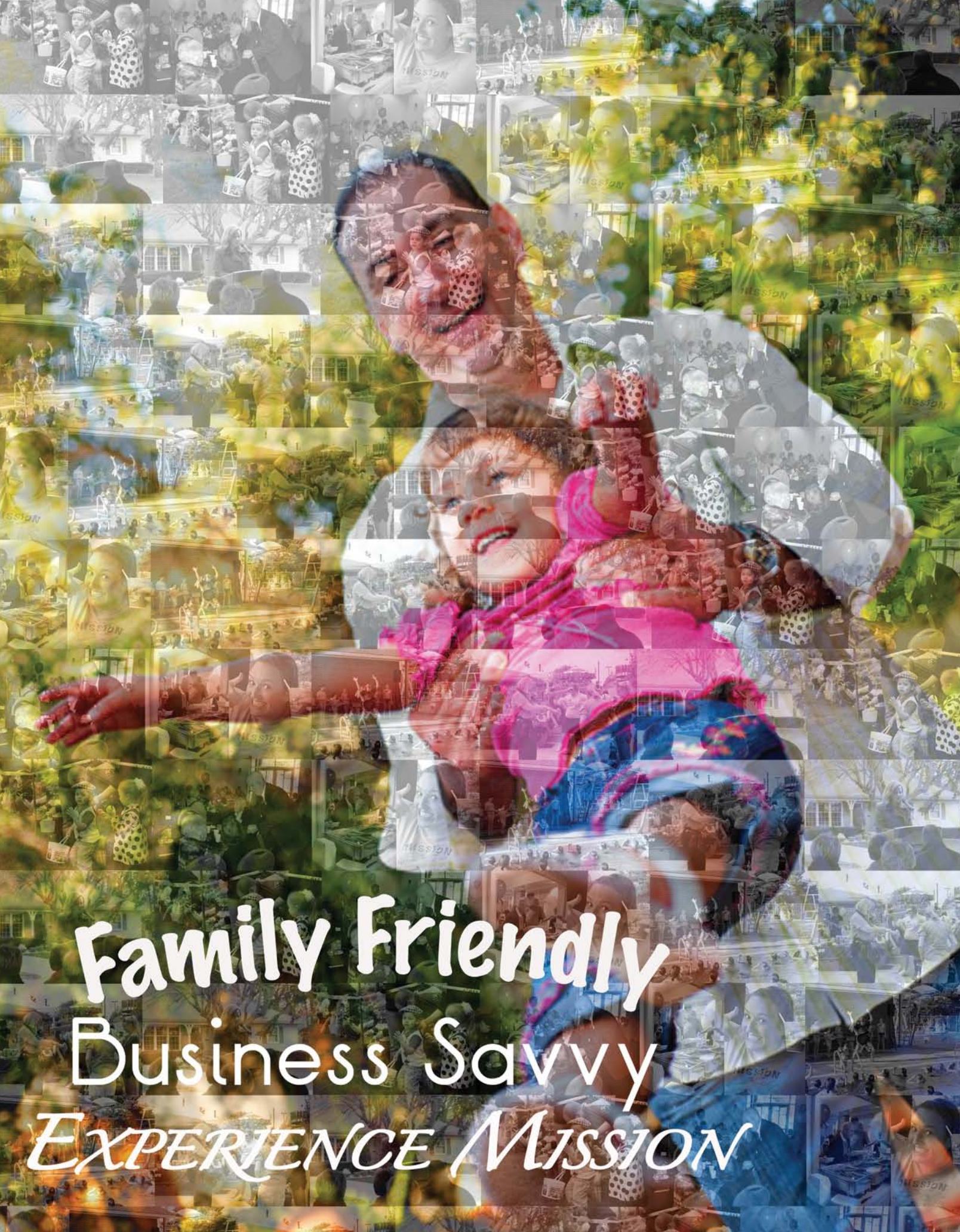
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