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Welcome!

Summer Time in Mission

We hope you are all enjoying these lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer and here in Mission we want you to throw some fun into the mix! For food, fun and fireworks, make plans to attend the annual Mission Family Picnic on July 10. If it is music you enjoy, treat yourself while you shop to a variety of bands on Saturday, July 10, and Saturday, Aug. 14, in downtown Mission. Or you can cool off at our Municipal Pool and catch a concert afterward on Wednesday nights in the park.

Ever watched a swim meet? Each year about 200 Mission Marlins compete in area swim meets, winning numerous awards, as featured in this issue of our Mission magazine. Or did you know that Kansas Special Olympics, a non-profit based in Mission for 40 years, is gearing their athletes up for a special summer competition? You will want to learn more about their activities in this issue as well.

If it is food that whets your appetite, check out Brian Sullivan’s “sugar cookies to die for.” Let’s also all join Fire Wok – a local, family-owned Chinese restaurant – as they celebrate their 25th year in Mission.

Mission: Your Hometown Magazine is published by the Mission Convention and Visitors Bureau. Please continue to share your stories with us about people, businesses and activities you would like us to consider as a feature in our upcoming issues. You may e-mail your ideas to missionmagazine@missionks.org.

Suzie Gibbs
Mission Convention and Visitors Bureau Chair
Councilmember, Ward IV
Mission News & Notes

Face painting is one of the many popular activities at the annual Mission Family Picnic.

Mission Family Picnic

JULY 10
6 to 10 p.m.
FREE ADMISSION!
Broadmoor Park

This all-city picnic at Broadmoor Park (57th and Broadmoor) is a great way to spend an evening with neighbors and friends.

The City of Mission brings the fun to you with live music, a traditional summer cookout, fireworks display, water games, family games and inflatables for the kids to play on. One of the most popular activities for children of all ages every year is the opportunity to cool off and get sprayed by the fire hoses belonging to Consolidated Fire District #2.

And there’s food, food, food! You can’t have a picnic without hot dogs and along with them we’ll have chips, soda and water. Ice cream sandwiches will be served for dessert.

The Mission Police Department will have a booth promoting National Night Out. Mission is proud to be among the more than 15,000 communities in all 50 states taking part in this event, which supports a partnership between neighborhoods and the police in their efforts to fight crime. Officers from the MPD will be there displaying their patrol cars and police motorcycles. MPD will also have child safety and crime prevention “giveaways” for kids and their parents.

Children won’t want to miss the annual light parade which happens just before the fireworks show. Don’t forget to bring a light stick or two with you that evening so your children can march around with glow-in-the-dark materials and light up the night!

To register for the picnic, call (913) 722-8228. Don’t forget, admission is free!

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:
6 p.m. The Grand Marquis performs
7:30 p.m. Consolidated Fire District #2 Sprays
8 p.m. DJ Bruce Ward Performs (Child & Teen Dance)
9 p.m. Children’s Light Parade
9:15 p.m. Fireworks Display

We need your chairs!

Old chairs, new chairs, rocking chairs, baby chairs, bar stools, benches … you name it. If you can sit on it, the Mission Convention and Visitors Bureau needs it! Once again our 2010 Arts & Eats Festival on Sept. 17 & 18 will include a display and silent auction of chairs painted by area organizations and individuals. The groups and people that paint the chairs get to choose the charities receiving funds from the auction. Please help us out by donating a chair (or two or three!). Or, make arrangements to paint a chair (or several). To get involved, please contact Suzie Gibbs at (913) 671-8564.
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The Huynh family works together and plays together at the Fire Wok, their Chinese restaurant that is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. They say they wouldn’t have it any other way.

“The work is what keeps us together,” said Bonnie Huynh, whose main responsibility at the Mission restaurant is bookkeeping.

Bonnie, the eldest of four siblings, immigrated with her parents to the United States in 1979 to escape communism in Vietnam. They lived in an Indonesian refugee camp, then moved to Minnesota and Texas before settling in Shawnee, Kan., where her parents bought the Fire Wok restaurant in 1985 from another Vietnamese refugee family.

By Linda Friedel
“It’s sentimental,” Bonnie said. “We all came from Vietnam.”

When Bonnie, her brothers, Kevin and Ryan, and sister, Monnie, grew old enough to help in the restaurant, they began by washing dishes and prepping the vegetables. Today Kevin and Ryan cook alongside their father, Luong, while Monnie serves as hostess. Tam, the family matriarch, does a little bit of everything, but especially likes preparing salads and desserts. Then, each night when the last customer leaves, the family sits down together to share a traditional Chinese dinner prepared by Tam.

“It keeps the family close,” Bonnie said. “We are a close knit family.”

The restaurant closes on Saturdays and Sundays to allow them all to spend with their growing families. Not being open on the weekends means the Huynhs can attend each other’s games, communions, birthdays and holidays. They enjoy each

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**About Fire Wok**

Fire Wok is located at 5818 Johnson Drive in Mission. It’s open for lunch Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dinner is served Monday through Thursday, 5 to 8 p.m. and Friday from 5 to 8:30 p.m. The restaurant is closed on the weekends.

Dining is buffet only. The lunch buffet sells for $7.19 and the dinner buffet is $8.99, drinks included. For more information, call (913) 362-3663.
Customers flock to Fire Wok's two buffet lines, one for main courses and one dedicated to desserts.

other's company so much that every weekend family members take turns hosting meals for one another.

"We need our family time to keep the restaurant going," Bonnie said.

Fire Wok's customers enjoy the restaurant's family atmosphere. Bonnie described it as a cozy restaurant where diners can find hot and sour soup or the restaurant's specialty, Springfield cashew nut chicken.

"Our food is fresh," Bonnie said. "We cook in smaller quantities. Nothing is pre-made. We start everything from scratch."

The buffet offers customers such favorites as egg rolls, egg drop soup and lo mein noodles. Desserts include tapioca pudding, almond cookies and sugar donuts. Bonnie explained that Fire Wok's customers like the sweeter, saltier American-Chinese flavoring rather than traditional Chinese food, which is often blander. Father and head cook Luong often blends traditional Vietnamese spices in some of the sauces using seasonings not typically found in American-Chinese food.

"Our food has a lot more flavor," Bonnie said.

Sandy Creek has been a Fire Wok customer for more than a decade and eats lunch there three times a week. A Chinese food aficionado, Creek ranks Fire Wok as the best in town. She said she loves their fresh ingredients, hospitality and family atmosphere.

"It wouldn't matter how far it is, I would go there," Creek said. "I love the family atmosphere. It reminds me of my family."

Creek especially likes their sautéed green beans with pork and hot and sour soup with its peppery flavor and fresh meat.

"I just love it," she said. "They have a huge variety of different things. I just love their Chinese food."

After so many years in business the family is now serving second generation customers, some of whom faithfully return long after they have moved to another part of town. As Fire Wok's hostess, Monnie enjoys seeing new faces and returning customers. She said while growing up in the restaurant, many of the customers' children became her friends.

"Some have become very close with us," Monnie said. "They get to know the whole family."

Monnie said the family likes their Mission location and appreciate their loyal Mission customers and the steady lunch business from area merchants. But, contrary to frequent request from their customers, they have no plans to add more Fire Wok locations in the Kansas City area.

The family misses the walk-in business from the Mission Mall formerly located across the street from Fire Wok on the east end of Johnson Drive, but Monnie said they all look forward to the mixed-use building complex slated to be built where the mall once stood.

"It would be great," Monnie said. "It will draw a lot of people to Mission."

After 25 years in the community, Monnie said Fire Wok is considered a Mission icon. The sisters both believe their parents sacrificed a lot on their behalf through the years and they, along with the brothers, are pleased to move Fire Wok into the 21st century.

"We appreciate the restaurant more now that we're older," Monnie said.
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Mission's Swim Team

Once a Marlin, always a Marlin

The coaches give the youngest Marlin swimmers a pep talk after a recent practice.

Coach Annie Richmond tries to coax 5-year-old Samuel Leatherwood into the water during practice recently.

Coach Alissa Ruffin (middle) stays right by Elisa Kiblen's side during swim team practice at the Mission pool. Sara Pate is on the left.
Some kids like to sleep the day away during the summer months. Not members of the Mission Marlins. Beginning in early June swimmers, and their coaches, can be found at the pool every single weekday morning as early as 7 a.m.

Why do these kids choose to get up at the crack of dawn? They swim for a variety of reasons, including health and fitness. Many do it simply because it’s fun.

“It’s also a great team building experience. The big kids cheer on the little kids and the little kids look up to the older kids. They have special friends they hang out with just in the summer and do things with the team that makes it seem like a family,” explained Suzanne Sawalich, the mother of three swimmers—Taylor (12), Connor (9) and Lauren (7).

Loyalty runs deep among the Marlins and every one of the six coaches was a swimmer first. As a child Alissa Ruffin joked that she would take over the team some day. Her prophecy came true in 2004 when she stepped in as head coach following the retirement of John Comstock, who coached the team for more than 25 years.

“I didn’t really think it would happen,” said Ruffin, who grew up in Mission and graduated from Shawnee Mission North in 1996. Ruffin started swimming for the Marlins when she was 9 years old in 1987. She’s been coaching since 1993.

“I’ve been a Marlin as long as I can remember and I intend to stay a Marlin as long as I am able,” she said.

Assistant Coach Katie Sutton has been with the Marlins for about a dozen years. She joined because a friend told her it was fun.

“It’s a great family atmosphere,” said Sutton, who just completed her freshman year at Northwest Missouri State in Maryville, Mo.

“I have stayed friends with girls that I met when I was 7 years old. When they kept coming back, I keep coming back,” Sutton continued.

Everyone welcome

Many describe the team, which is comprised of about 200 swimmers ranging in age from 4 to 18, as one big, happy family. Swimmers come from all over Johnson County, but Mission residents get discounted registration fees.

Anyone can join the team. However Ruffin said swimmers should be comfortable swimming the length of the pool — 25 meters — unassisted.

“We typically use that as our guide. But we make room for whoever wants to try the team. We figure if there is a desire to swim, we can maximize that opportunity to develop a swimmer,” said Ruffin, who teaches math at Monticello Trails Middle School in Shawnee.

The oldest swimmers arrive for practice at 7 a.m. Other age groups show up every hour until the pool opens to the public at noon. Tuesday evening competitions are held for swimmers 10 and younger while swimmers 11 and older compete on Thursday evenings.

Young swimmers who feel they might not be ready to
compete can still join the team.

“We offer a pre-competitive component in which they just practice. Then there’s a pre-competitive meet mid-season that is an opportunity for young swimmers and new swimmers to swim in a non-competitive environment. They all get a ribbon for completing,” she said.

The Marlins compete in the MOKAN swim league which also includes Homestead Country Club, Leawood City Swim Team, Woodside Health and Tennis Club and Meadowbrook Country Club. Meets began in June and conclude with the championships July 20 and 22 at the City of Mission Municipal Pool. (Note: The pool will be closed on July 20 and July 22 for the meet. For more information regarding pool closures, contact (913) 722-4590.)

Unlike the city leagues Ruffin said the MOKAN is a swimmer-friendly league.

“The city leagues focus on the fastest and the very top swimmers. All of our swimmers compete and we offer a wider variety of events. We really want to cater to the swimmers and give them the most for their seven-week season,” said Ruffin, the mother of two future young Marlins.

A great organization

Ruffin said much of the credit for the Marlins success goes to the parents. Sawalich, who serves as an official team parent, noted that the program has been strong for years partly because it is very organized and is known for having the best parent volunteers in the MOKAN league.

But Sawalich also praises the coaching staff.

“Our coaches don’t coach from the side. They get water and teach them the correct strokes, turns, dives…make the kids want to work hard and have fun. They all put out weekly awards to groups of swimmers that try their best and show good sportsmanship,” Sawalich said.

Assistant Coach Sutton said that while they do try to work on technique, the coaches like to see the kids enjoy themselves

“It’s fun to see kids that have started at 7 and keep coming back,” she said. “Hopefully, that means we’re doing something for them to keep enjoying it and coming back,” Sutton said.
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Clip & Save
Special Olympics

Empowering athletes while creating life-long friendships

By Linda Friedel

Special Olympics is a worldwide program of sports training, education and athletic competition open to individuals with intellectual disabilities regardless of their abilities. The organization's mission is to empower people with intellectual disabilities through sport and sports training.

It began in 1968 when Eunice Kennedy Shriver organized the First International Special Olympics Games at Soldier Field in Chicago. Since 1968, millions of children and adults with intellectual disabilities have participated in Special Olympics.

This year marks the 40th anniversary for Special Olympics Kansas, which has called Mission home for the same length of time. Located at 5280 Foxridge Dr., the organization sponsors 80 competitions annually throughout Kansas for athletes like Adam Chaffin, who grew up in Mission. Individuals with intellectual disabilities such as autism, Down's syndrome and cerebral palsy can start participating as young as 8 years old and compete as long as they want – well into adulthood like Chaffin has done. They can choose from 22 different sports including power lifting, aquatics, golf, tennis, softball, gymnastics, track and field and cycling.

"It's about the overall fitness of the athletes for life," explains Donna Zimmerman, SOKS's senior vice president of marketing and communications. "We've become their fitness center all year round."

Zimmerman says the non-profit has expanded its original mission to include leadership and healthcare components. To promote leadership skills, SOKS offers public speaking training through its Global Messengers program. These athletes then play an important role in educating the public and recruiting new athletes, volunteers and sponsors. The program has worked so well, Zimmerman said, that one

Adam Chaffin was honored last fall as the Big 12 Conference 2009-10 Special Olympics Athletes of the Year at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas.
athlete, George Martin of the Olathe Trailblazers, is even a member of the SOKS board of directors.

“We are now about the entire quality of life of the athlete,” she said.

SOKS’s Healthy Athlete program provides athletes – who often cannot articulate a health problem – the opportunity to receive free preventative healthcare. During three of the larger athletic competitions every year, Zimmerman said athletes are seen by volunteer doctors, nurses and dentists. The medical professionals donate their time to do such things as vision and hearing screenings and dental and blood pressure checks.

“Our reach has become very extensive,” thanks to these volunteers, Zimmerman said.

The pageantry

The Kansas regional and state Special Olympics competitions mirror the International Olympic Games in many ways. That means, Zimmerman said, they always include opening ceremonies and lighting a cauldron. Law enforcement officers, through the Law Enforcement Torch Run, play a huge role preceding the torch-lighting ceremonies. These officers carry
several dozen torches across the state by foot, horseback, bicycle, motorcycle or van and then light the Olympic cauldron at the opening ceremony.

The Torch Run is a special source of pride for SOKS as the program originated in Kansas in 1981. Wichita Police Chief Richard LaMunyon saw a need to raise funds for and awareness of Special Olympics Kansas. He felt that Special Olympics was a fitting cause to unite local law enforcement agencies, giving them closer ties to the community at large and to a very special population. It went national three years later and now it’s the movement’s largest grass-roots fundraiser and public awareness vehicle.

“We think that they are fabulous and integral to our success with the awareness they raise,” Zimmerman said. “Our athletes absolutely adore them.”

The joy of competition
In preparation for the June summer games, 500 regional athletes from five counties competed in April at Blue Valley Northwest High School. Amber Hellwig, SOKS’s Kansas City Metro regional director, said the athletes are always excited to get a chance to compete at events they excel at.
“The best part of the day for me is getting to see them walk around with a huge smile on their face wearing their medals because of what they have accomplished for the day,” Hellwig said.

Tim Rehder, SOKS’s senior vice president of sports, has worked with athletes nearly 14 years. He said the athletes enjoy themselves tremendously during the games and he has found their joy contagious.

“It has allowed me to not take myself so seriously,” he said. “It’s allowed me to put things in perspective.”

Rehder said the games reinforce the competitors’ abilities rather than their disabilities.

“It shows what athletes with an intellectual disability can do,” he said.

As with the International Olympic Games, Special Olympians also receive high recognition for their feats. Last November Mission native Adam Chaffin was named one of the Big 12 Conference 2009-10 Special Olympics Athletes of the Year. Adam got to travel to Arlington, Texas, for the Dr Pepper Big 12 Football Championship at Cowboys Stadium to receive a commemorative ring in an on-field presentation during the championship contest.

Ask Chaffin about the ring and he will probably cry.

“(I was) emotional about the honor,” said Chaffin, who is a golfer. “I’m really, really proud.”

Chaffin’s award was a culmination of 24 years of competition in Special Olympics Kansas, where he says he made friends, had fun and enjoyed team camaraderie.

His parents, Mission residents Linda and Dale Chaffin, say they have also made friends through their son’s competitions. Linda volunteers during games, assisting coaches and organizing meals, and Dale serves on the board of directors with SOKS.

“We have great friends through Special Olympics with the other parents,” she said.

Due to his experiences in Special Olympics Kansas, Chaffin, now 32, developed a very independent and self-supportive lifestyle. He resides in his own apartment, which is often a gathering place for his Special Olympics teammates. He is a Global Messenger for Special Olympics and has spoken to many audiences and groups about the importance of the program to persons with intellectual disabilities.

What you can do

For athletes like Chaffin to compete and succeed, SOKS needs both volunteers and funds. Rehder encourages company and service groups to help run events, provide meals and act as field escorts for athletes. He said volunteering for Special Olympics provides co-workers a team-building opportunity and a way to give to the community.

“Volunteers are the life blood of it,” Rehder said. “I’m amazed at the companies that do it year in and year out at different levels. Special Olympics makes the volunteer effort more personal. The athletes give it a face.”

While Zimmerman is a paid employee, she said working with the athletes has changed her life.

“They are probably some of the most upbeat people I’ve ever seen in my life,” she said. “It’s just very uplifting. It makes you appreciate what they have to offer.”

Special Olympics Kansas is a registered 501(c)(3), nonprofit organization in the state of Kansas. Special Olympics Kansas receives no government or Kennedy Foundation funds and is not a designated United Way Agency. All funds are obtained through public and private donations.

To find out how to volunteer or donate funds for SOKS, call (913) 236-9290, e-mail kso@ksso.org or visit www.ksso.org.
One Mission man knows how to spice up his job. Brian Sullivan, maintenance supervisor at the Sylvester Powell Jr. Community Center, has surprised his co-workers through the years with his home-baked sugar cookies, candies, cakes and chicken pot pies for their birthdays, anniversaries and retirement parties.

"He's just a great cook," said co-worker Kathy Lockard, an administrative supervisor for Mission's Parks & Recreation department. "He cooks anything and everything."

Lockard is hard-pressed to name her favorite treat from Sullivan's kitchen, but she describes his sugar cookies as "to-die-for."

"Once we tasted them it was, oh-my-gosh, you can taste the butter in them," she said.

Then she joked, "You can feel them clog your veins."

Lockard said Sullivan's melt-in-your-mouth cookies are also a feast for the eyes. With his all-occasion cookie-cutters, he creates dazzling works of art, like iced pumpkins for Halloween or snowflakes for winter. She said he bakes cookies by the dozens and freezes them in anticipation of the next big thing. Guests at his annual holiday party take turns munching from a colorful display of cookies, candies and cakes shaped like a pinwheel on his dining room table.
“I enjoy baking. It’s a stress reliever.”  
- Brian Sullivan

“He’s just the nicest man you will ever want to meet,” she said. “He’s very caring and very giving.” Sullivan said there is nothing better than creating food sensations for family, friends and co-workers. He donates fresh berry and chicken pot pies to help raise money at his church’s annual auction and he and his wife host a monthly dinner with a theme for a group of eight friends. Sullivan said he does the cooking and his wife does the cleaning.

“I enjoy baking,” he said. “It’s a stress reliever.”

Before working at the community center, Sullivan baked for a living, meeting deadlines as a baker for a grocery store, then as head baker for Sam’s Club where he became proficient at French bread, Hoagies, egg rolls, croissants and pies.

He subscribes to several culinary magazines and watches cooking divas Paula Dean, Rachael Ray and Sandra Lee, but rarely sits through an episode. “I get up and go out and bake,” he said. Growing up Sullivan watched his mother prepare home-cooked meals, making nearly everything from scratch. He said she never followed recipes and neither does he.

“I use them as a guideline,” he said.

An admitted sugar addict, Sullivan specializes in wedding cakes, pies and cookies. He designed and created his daughter’s wedding cake and baked a purple and lavender princess birthday cake for his 5-year-old granddaughter and protégée.

“She’s a lot of fun. We make cookies quite frequently,” he said. “She remembers the recipes.”

Sullivan also enjoys grilling and preparing comfort foods like his chicken pot pie that netted more than $100 at his church’s annual pie auction. He likes to cook with flavor, but believes in the law of simplicity. For instance, he makes traditional Midwestern comfort foods like chicken pot pie with a homemade gravy, but uses canned veggies and ready made crust. He said it’s delicious and saves time.

“It bakes quicker,” he said.

Sullivan shops at ALDI grocery store for economy, declaring ingredients don’t need a fancy label. He owns more than 100 unique cookie cutters, says recipes with more than five ingredients are over-rated and guarantees that none of his food is healthy.

He said he does not bring cookies to work nearly as often as he once did.

“Everybody’s always on a diet,” he said. “I don’t want to be known as the diet wrecker.”

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**Sugar Cookies**

1/2 c. shortening  
1 c. sugar  
1 egg  
1 t. vanilla  
3 T. milk  
2 c. flour  
1 t. baking powder  
1/2 t. salt

Cream the shortening, sugar, egg, vanilla and milk. Add flour, baking powder, salt. Mix well; if it is still sticky add extra flour until dry to touch but not crumbly. Roll dough out on floured surface to about 3/4-inch thick. Cut into shapes, bake at 350 degrees for about 8 to 10 minutes. Cookies should be very light in color. Place on a cookie rack until completely cooled. Makes approximately 3 dozen cookies.

**Icing**

1 stick butter, melted  
1/2 c. milk  
2 lbs. of powdered sugar  
1 t. vanilla

Heat milk and butter in microwave for 1.5 minutes on high. In large bowl, place sugar and vanilla; add milk and butter mixture and stir until smooth. Following this step you can add food coloring if desired. Ice cookies.

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**Chicken Pot Pie**  
(makes two pies)

2-3 chicken breast  
1 can carrots, drained  
1 can potatoes, diced and drained  
1 c. frozen peas  
5 chicken bouillon cubes  
2-3 T. flour  
1 stick butter  
Salt and pepper to taste  
4 pie crusts, already prepared from store

Boil chicken in 4 cups water with bouilion cubes until done. Chop chicken and reserve chicken broth. Divide carrots, potatoes and peas equally. Put half in each pie shell along with the chicken.

Melt butter in pan. Add flour, salt and pepper to taste and chicken broth to make the gravy. Pour in each pie shell. Top with other crust, pinch shells together, score top of pie shells. Bake at 350 degrees, approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour until golden brown.
JULY 6, 20
AUGUST 3, 17
SEPTEMBER 7, 21
We're Talkin' Tuesday Networking
Mainstreet Credit Union, corner of Martway and Lamar, 8 a.m.
The Northeast Johnson County Chamber's "We're Talkin' Tuesday" networking group is the place to be on Tuesday mornings. This fun, interactive networking experience is a great place to connect with 50 to 60 people representing businesses in the area. The group meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Coffee and light breakfast is provided; don't forget to bring plenty of business cards! Reservations are not necessary. For more information contact Lindsey Huckleby at (913) 262-2141.

JULY 7, AUGUST 4, SEPTEMBER 1
First Wednesdays Happy Hour
Lucky Brewgrille, 5401 Johnson Drive, 5 to 7 p.m.
Join Northeast Johnson County Chamber members and guests on the first Wednesday of each month for networking in a relaxed atmosphere. Great drink specials offered, no RSVP needed. For more information contact Lindsey Huckleby at (913) 262-2141.

THURSDAY, JULY 8
Coffee and Conversation
Shawnee Mission Express Care, 6655 Martway (inside HyVee), 8 to 9:30 a.m.
Come network with Northeast Johnson County members and learn about Shawnee Mission Express Care. Coffee and light breakfast will be provided. For more information contact Lindsey Huckleby at (913) 262-2141.

SATURDAYS, JULY 10 & AUG. 14
Music in Downtown Mission
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Bands will be scattered throughout the downtown area for your listening enjoyment. Shop, eat and enjoy the afternoon! Visit www.shopmission.org for more details.

SATURDAY, JULY 10
Mission Family Picnic
Broadmoor Park, 6 to 10 p.m.
Free entertainment, free food and fun for all ages. The City of Mission brings the fun to you with live music, a traditional summer cookout, water games, family games and activities. A hot dog supper will be provided by the City of Mission and will include hot dogs, chips, soda, water and ice cream sandwiches for dessert. The evening wraps up with a fireworks display. For more information, call Scott Deschenes at (913) 722-8228 or e-mail sdeschenes@missionks.org.

WEDNESDAYS JULY 14 - AUG. 4
Aqua Jamz
Mission Municipal Pool, 6 to 7:30 p.m.
Cool off while listening to some hot tunes this summer! Come join us for a free night of music at the Mission Municipal Pool. The concession stand will be open so you can purchase dinner as well. Contact Beth Johnson at (913) 722-8207 for more information.
July 14: Dino O'Dell
July 21: Sugar Free All-Stars
July 28: The La Las
Aug. 4: Kids Vibe

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21
Mission City Council Meeting
City Hall, 7 p.m.

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, AUGUST 2-6
Safety Town
Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center, 9 to 11 a.m.
Mission Parks & Recreation's very own miniature town site! Safety Town is designed specifically to educate children preparing to enter kindergarten on safety issues in the big world of going to school. This program focuses on pedestrian and vehicular traffic, fire, home, stranger danger and more. Experience includes classroom discussion and interaction, and traffic practice on the child's own level at the Safety Town site. Policemen, firemen, lifeguards, EMS personnel and school bus drivers help prepare children for their first school adventures. Please indicate T-shirt size when registering. This program is for children, ages 4-5 years old. Contact Scott Deschenes at (913) 722-8228 for more information.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11
Business After Hours at Mission Bowl
Mission Bowl, 5399 Martway, 5 to 7 p.m.
Come and enjoy bowling, miniature golf, drink specials, a free appetizer buffet and great networking! There will be fantastic door prizes and one lucky person will win the grand prize of a company party valued at $150!!! Please RSVP by Aug. 9 to Lindsey Huckleby at lhuckleby@nejcchamber.com or (913) 262-2141.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18
Mission City Council Meeting
City Hall, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
Mission City Council Meeting
City Hall, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 & 18
Mission Arts & Eats Festival and Battle of the Brisket State Championship
The Mission Arts & Eats festival, sponsored by Keystone Nissan, is a fun-filled two-day event that provides a wide variety of activities and entertainment for the whole family; fine arts and crafts, delicious food and lively entertainment. The Battle of the Brisket State Championship, sponsored by AT&T, is held in conjunction with the Arts & Eats festival. Each year thousands of people attend this event because there is so much to see, so much to do and so much to smell. For more information or to register your team for the BBQ, go to the MCVB website, missioncvb@missionks.org.
Jammin’ at the pool...

AQUA JAMZ

FREE ADMISSION • 6:00-7:30 p.m.

July 14 - Dino O’Dell
July 21 - Sugar Free All-Stars
July 28 - The La Las
August 4 - Kids Vibe

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