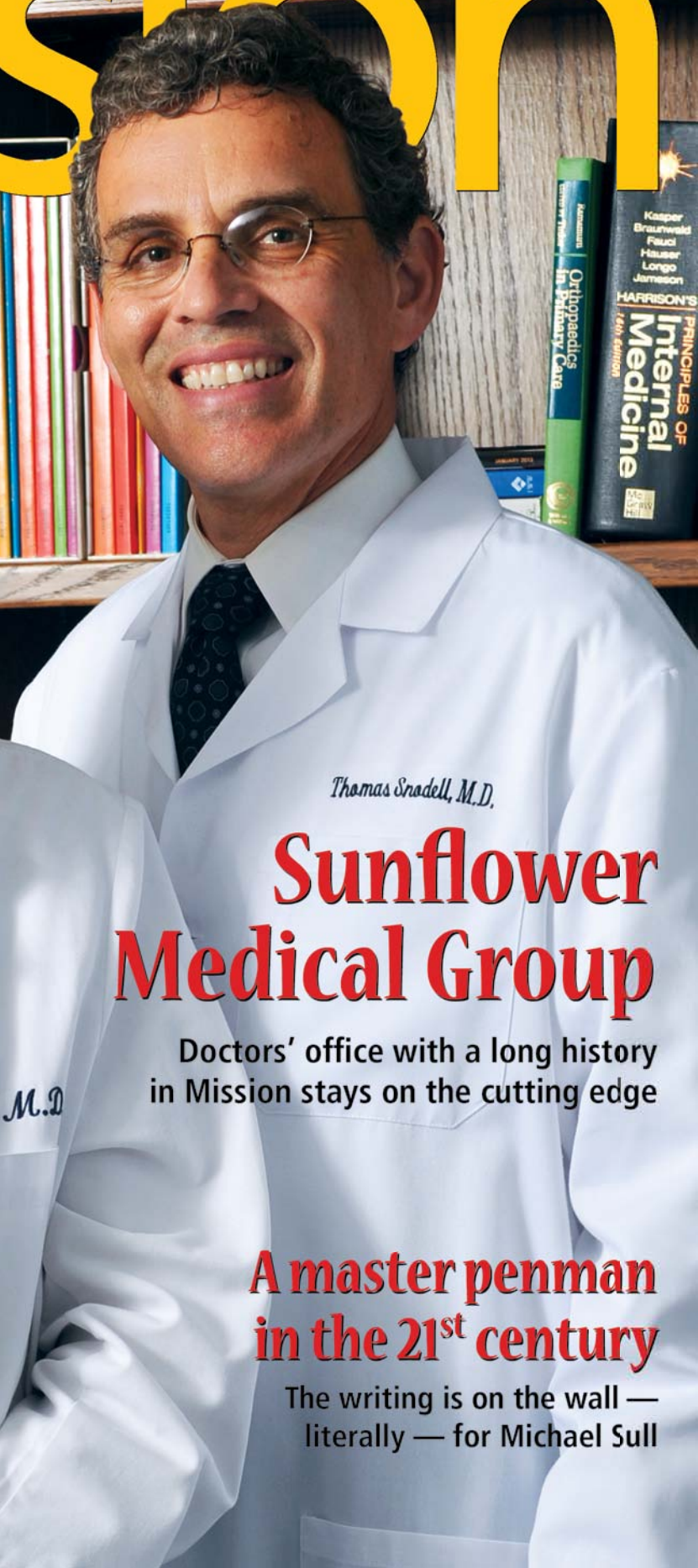


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Your Hometown

JUNE / JULY 2013



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Sunflower Medical Group

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in Mission stays on the cutting edge

A master penman in the 21st century

The writing is on the wall —
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The joys of summer

Ahhh ... it's summer! I am but a firefly caught in his jar and when he looks at me, I can't help but glow!

What are your summer dreams for this year? Are you planning a family vacation to some exotic place? Or are you going to stay in Mission and join us as we all dip our toes in the Mission Pool for the last time? Let your imagination run way back with me to your childhood days and think — what was your favorite thing to do in the summer?

Those of us who are a certain age (we have a “don't ask, don't tell” policy!) didn't have the electronics that are so prevalent today to keep us occupied, so we had to make our own fun! We certainly did have fun. Remember catching lightning bugs in jars — only to use their lights as a ring on our fingers; riding bikes from daylight until dark; walking to the Velvet Freeze ice cream store for a 5-cent dip of greengage ice cream (probably lime sherbet today); playing games until we were called in for a bologna or peanut butter and jelly sandwich; going to the YWCA/YMCA for swimming lessons as we didn't have the luxury of a neighborhood pool; joining the local library club to see how many books you could read during the summer months or simply sitting on the front porch swing and singing songs with the neighbors from the recent *Hit Parade* magazine. I don't think any of these fit into the youth of today's plans!

I was very fortunate to live in Mission while raising my two boys, so they were able to take advantage of the Mission Pool — not just for entertainment but also as a member of the Mission Swim Team. My son would rise at 6 a.m. to bicycle down to the pool for swim practice. It was and still is a very vital part of the Mission community and I, like you, are eagerly awaiting the summer of 2014 and a brand-new pool for our community to enjoy.

As rumor tells it, our children will not be learning cursive in the public schools anymore. So, in reading Michael Sull's story on the art and skill of handwriting, you just might want to take a second look at your handwriting and try something new.

Sunflower Medical Group has served Mission residents for a long time — and thanks to the doctors there, I know a lot of young people have had their scraped knees bandaged so they can get on their skateboards and go down that hill one more time!

But summer wouldn't be summer without the Fourth of July, so please mark your calendar for our Mission Family Picnic, Saturday, July 13. Following tradition we'll have hot dogs, soda pop, music and fireworks for the young and “young at heart.”

Whatever you did in your youth or are doing this year — don't you just love how summer wraps its arms around you like a warm blanket? Enjoy!

Suzie Gibbs

*Mission Convention and Visitors Bureau Chair
Councilmember, Ward IV*

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ON THE COVER: Dr. Firmin Snodell, left, and Dr. Tom Snodell, Sunflower Medical Group.

PHOTO BY KEVIN BLAYNEY

Mission

Your Hometown

JUNE / JULY 2013

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State-of-the-art doctors' office is firmly rooted in Mission community

A FIXTURE HERE SINCE 1947, SUNFLOWER MEDICAL GROUP STAYS ON THE CUTTING EDGE

BY HEATHER SWAN
PHOTOS BY KEVIN BLAYNEY

One of Mission's best-kept secrets just might be one of its oldest businesses.

Sunflower Medical Group has a lengthy history in Mission: The doctors' office first opened in a Mission house in the 1940s, moved to its current location at 5555 W. 58th St. in the 1960s, and was accidentally firebombed and completely destroyed in 1990. It has since been rebuilt and expanded.

Despite being a Mission staple for 66 years, Sunflower Medical Group keeps a relatively low profile in its offices at 58th and Nall just doing what they do: providing high-quality and full-service medical care, staying ahead of their peers on technology and best practices, and maintaining a homey environment for their employees and patients.

THE HISTORY OF MISSION (NOW SUNFLOWER) MEDICAL GROUP

Drs. Jake Batty and Al Derrington founded Mission Medical Group in 1947 in a house on Reeds Road. Batty and Derrington were military doctors during World War II and brought their war-time skills (and their ability to perform surgeries) to their Mission Medical Group practice. Derrington, at the age of 36, died of a heart attack on an airplane headed for Africa. Batty then recruited his brother, Tom, to join the practice as a physician after Derrington's death.

Several doctors later joined Mission Medical Group, and the practice moved to its current location at 5555 W. 58th St. in 1968.

The doctors' office has been in the same spot ever since, except for when it had to temporarily relocate in 1990 after a firebomb was thrown through the front windows on Christmas night. No one was there at the time, but the building caught on fire and burned to the ground. Two Harrisonville, Mo., teenagers were later caught and charged for the incident; they mistakenly thought this practice performed abortions. (They were allegedly told to firebomb the doctors' office at 58th and Nall and got the wrong one.)

Rebuilt and a little bit larger, Mission Medical Group changed its name to Sunflower Medical Group after merging with several other doctors at another location. The group now has 25 doctors and five locations in Johnson and Wyandotte counties. But the Mission office has continued to maintain its small, community feel.

Just because it has been a longtime fixture in Mission doesn't mean it's old-fashioned, however. Sunflower Medical Group boasts a state-of-the-art lab on its lower level with same-day lab results (available in most cases), electronic medical records, urgent

care in addition to its regular office hours, and five physicians with a wide range of experience: Rebecca Bruce, D.O., MBA; Yvette Crabtree, M.D., FACP; Paul Kurth, M.D.; George Postma, M.D.; and Tom Snodell, M.D.

THE NEWEST DOCTOR

Before she became a doctor, Rebecca Bruce and her husband, Rob, used to walk by Sunflower Medical Group in Mission and joke about her working there someday. Bruce was in medical school at the time at Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences (KCUMB), and they lived about six blocks from the doctors' office on Ash Street. The Bruces ended up moving away so Rebecca could do her residency in family medicine at Trinity Hospital in Bettendorf, Iowa, but they were hoping to return to the Kansas City area.

"It always stuck with me that this place was here," said Bruce, of Sunflower Medical Group.

Dr. Bruce finished her residency in June 2012 and started working at Sunflower Medical Group in August.

"I love it," she said. "It's pretty much my dream job."

"...It's a very good practice, and I really like the people here."

Dr. Bruce is the only family practitioner in the Mission office of Sunflower Medical Group (the other four physicians specialize in internal medicine), so she is able to see everyone in the family from babies to adults.

She also brings some other unique skills to the group.

At the same time she was attending KCUMB for medical school, Dr. Bruce received her MBA in health care leadership and administration from Rockhurst University. In addition, she speaks Spanish and has training in osteopathic manipulative treatment (OMT). As an osteopath, she knows how to use her hands to work with bones, muscles and other body tissues. The technique — which can be done in a gentle or more aggressive way — resembles massage and chiropractic treatment.

"It gives me a way to treat the whole body," Dr. Bruce said.

A FAMILY ATMOSPHERE (LITERALLY)

Two of the physicians who came on board at Mission Medical Group in the 1960s were Robert Kurth and Firmin Snodell. Today, patients at Sunflower Medical Group see Dr. Paul Kurth, Robert Kurth's nephew, and Dr. Tom Snodell, Firmin Snodell's son.

Dr. Robert Kurth retired about 12 years ago, but Paul Kurth was able to work with his "mentor" for more than two decades.

Dr. Tom Snodell worked with "Dr. Firmin" for almost 20

Continued on page 8



Above: Sunflower Medical Group in Mission currently has five physicians on staff. They are, from left, Tom Snodell, M.D.; Rebecca Bruce, D.O., MBA; Paul Kurth, M.D.; Yvette Crabtree, M.D., FACP; and George Postma, M.D. Below: Penny Singer, a medical technologist at Sunflower Medical Group, works with state-of-the-art instruments, including a \$100,000 chemistry analyzer, to process lab results quickly.



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Dr. Rebecca Bruce is Sunflower Medical Group's newest physician. As an osteopath, she knows how to use her hands to work with bones, muscles and other body tissues to help her patients.

Continued from page 6

years and was still asking his father questions right before he retired on Jan. 1, 2013.

"Seeing him every day was a joy," said Dr. Tom Snodell, of his father. "Not everyone gets to work with their father."

Looking back, Dr. Firmin is proud of how long he was able to serve his patients (he was a physician at Sunflower Medical Group since 1968 and practiced medicine for a total of 48 years) and that he was able to work with his son.

Dr. Firmin still comes into the office a couple times a week to run over the lunch hour with nurse practitioner Connie Piekarski. The two of them have been running the streets of Mission together since 1983, and Mission residents have come to expect seeing them on their run.

Dr. Firmin, 82, still runs about 2 ½ to 3 miles at a time, weather permitting.

He recalled from his early days at Mission Medical Group how the charts from the 1940s and 1950s noted that office visits cost \$3 each. Patients would also regularly bring him gifts, like baked goods and woodworking projects.

He misses his patients since retiring.

"The patients I saw for many years were not patients, per se. They were more like friends," he said. "...These were people I had a lot of respect for and they had respect for me."

While most employers might consider employees long-term when they serve for 20 years, Sunflower Medical Group has several employees who have been there for more than 30 years.

Dr. Paul Kurth jokes that it's like Hotel California, where employees come and never leave.

"People basically come here and spend their whole career here," he said. "This has always been a family."

Sunflower Medical Group is unique in other aspects as well.

In the complicated landscape of health care, Sunflower Medical Group has been able to maintain its independence from a hospital or large health care organization. It has also kept its neighborhood location so residents don't have to go to a hospital campus to see their primary care physician.

"We are a stable business," Dr. Kurth said. "People know we are not going to pull up roots and leave."

"...We're always here and that provides a lot of comfort that we will always be here in the community."

MEDICINE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

When Penny Singer started working at Sunflower Medical Group as a medical technologist about 35 years ago, much of her work was done manually and there weren't nearly as many tests. Today, much of her work in the lab at Sunflower Medical Group is done with state-of-the-art instruments, including a \$100,000 chemistry analyzer. This helps the lab process results quickly for the Mission office and two other offices that are part of Sunflower Medical Group. All lab results then go into the patients' electronic medical records. (Sunflower Medical Group started using electronic medical records in 2007, ahead of its peers.)

But the key to the lab is not only in its instruments.

"We have three registered medical technologists," Singer said. "That is very unusual. We are a dying breed."

Other ways Sunflower Medical Group has been ahead of medical trends are by having a quality manager (Kathy Stegeman, who started working at Mission Medical Group as a nurse in 1980) and applying for certification as a Patient Centered Medical Home. Dr. Crabtree from the Mission office is the physician leader of the Patient Centered Medical Home transformation for the whole group.

The Patient Centered Medical Home is an approach to providing total health care as certified by the National Center for Quality Assurance. This virtual home is a way of coordinating care and proactively involving patients to engage in their health care in partnership with their health care team. As part of this model, patients' medical information will be kept all in one place, physicians at Sunflower Medical Group will coordinate care with specialists (if needed), and hospital and emergency room visits will be able to be tracked, to name just a few of the benefits of a Patient Centered Medical Home.

All in all, Sunflower Medical Group is a positive atmosphere for both patients and staff.

"The people are great and it's a great place to practice medicine," Dr. Tom Snodell said.

"I feel needed. The patients thank you for being here and thank you for being open.

"...We plan to be here a long time."

For more information, call Sunflower Medical Group at 913-432-2080 or visit www.sunflowermed.com. Sunflower Medical Group's regular office hours at its Mission office (5555 W. 58th St.) are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. The Urgent Care Clinic is open from 5 to 8 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sundays.

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Mission Bulletin Board

North team to nationals



Shawnee Mission North High School's Academic WorldQuest team represented Kansas City in the national WorldQuest competition, which was held on April 27 at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. While there, the North team placed 19th nationally out of 44 teams. The students are, from left, Ali Oguz, Tristan Abbott, Andrew Nelson and Jason Foster. Andrew and Jason are Mission residents. Congratulations!

Check out the new event at the Arts & Eats Festival

Join us on the evening of Sept. 13 for the Arts & Eats Benefit Draw, a live drawing and fundraising event featuring local artists. This event lets spectators observe artists in the act of creation, providing the opportunity to watch a drawing come to life, and to purchase a work of art minutes after its completion in a silent auction. Proceeds from the benefit go to support the Mission Convention & Visitors Bureau's Adopt-a-Family program. The Arts & Eats Benefit Draw will be held in conjunction with the Mission Arts & Eats Festival and Battle of the Brisket State Championship.

If you are a local artist and this sounds like something you would like to support or participate in, contact Kathy Lockard at 913-722-8206.



SAVE THE DATE!

The Arts & Eats Festival and Battle of the Brisket State Championship are set for Sept. 13 and 14, and it's not too early for barbecue teams to sign up. Visit www.missioncvb.org for more information.

Barbecue applications can be found on the MCVB website or call Christy Humerickhouse at 913-722-8210.



Thanks to the residents of The Mission Project for their dedication to their annual cleaning and polishing of Pearl Harbor Park. In addition to this annual clean-up, the young adults from The Mission Project walk through Mission every Saturday (usually on the trails) and pick up trash.

Mission Bulletin Board



Mission resident Mary McNiel took home top honors at the first annual Apple Pie Contest held during the Mission Family Festival. The Granny Smith apples used in the pie were grown by McNiel's neighbors, Bruce and Billie Campbell, so this was truly a hometown winner!

MEETING NOTICE

Mission City Council Meetings:
7 p.m. at City Hall

July 17, 2013
Aug. 21, 2013



Calling all emerging artists, ages 10 through high school!

You are invited to apply for participation in the City of Mission's 10th annual Arts & Eats Festival, Sept. 13 and 14. All works must be hand crafted/made by the artist participating. We are a true community arts festival, welcoming local emerging artists as exhibitors. For more information, contact Kathy Lockard, 913-722-8206.

Mission ArtWalk

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July 12 AND Aug. 9

ARTISTS FROM THE KANSAS CITY AREA will showcase their talents in a variety of art media during Mission ArtWalk events this summer. Sponsored by Mission businesses, these events will include a DJ, food, drinks and entertainment. There's still time for interested artists to register. Visit www.missionartwalk.com for more information.



Jacque Gameson, chairperson of the Mission Tree Board, recently introduced Jacob Lucas at a Mission City Council meeting. Jacob, a fifth-grader at Rushton Elementary School, was the winner of the 2013 Mission Arbor Day Poster Contest. In addition to winning Mission's contest, Jacob won the Northeast Kansas Regional Arbor Day Poster Contest. Pictured with Jacob are Mayor Laura McConwell, his family and members of the Mission Tree Board.



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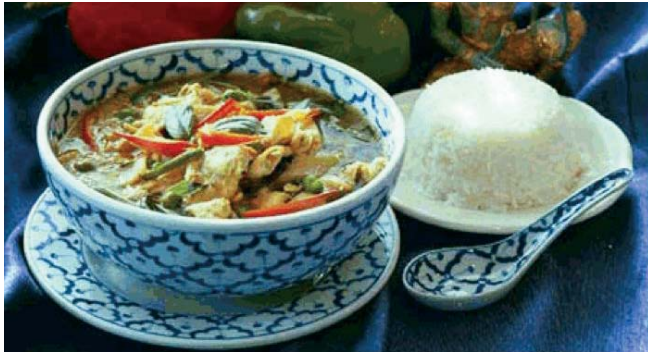
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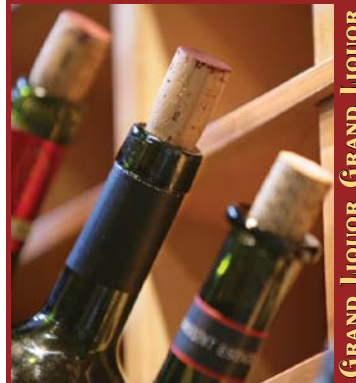
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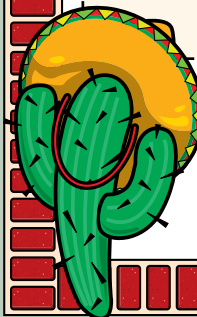
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CITY OF MISSION

Newsletter

JUNE / JULY 2013
VOLUME 9, ISSUE 3
WWW.MISSIONKS.ORG

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It is with great pleasure that I can announce that City Council affirmed the appointment of Gerry Vernon as City Administrator during our May 15th meeting. Mr. Vernon was selected following a nationwide search, and comes to Mission from Junction City, Kansas. He brings with him a well-established career in public administration and rich background in public works. Prior to being in Junction City, he spent many years with the City of Smithville, Missouri. We welcomed him to our "Mission family" on June 3rd. While you will have many opportunities to meet Mr. Vernon in the coming months, please feel free to stop by City Hall and introduce yourself to him. He is looking forward to meeting Mission residents and business owners.



Our Municipal Outdoor Pool is open for its final season, and construction on our new Outdoor Pool will begin at the end of the current season. Many residents attended our public input sessions to let us know what they would like in our new pool, and our final design incorporates some great amenities that will serve all of our pool patrons — from our youngest swimmers to our seniors. Details and planning continue. Final plans for the new Outdoor Pool, or "Aquatics Facility" if we want to use recreation lingo, will be posted on our website later this summer and will be included in our next City newsletter. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, August 11th from noon to 6:00 p.m. for our "Farewell to the Pool" party!

Although the weather was a little uncooperative this spring, the Martway and Woodson intersection has reopened and Phase 2 of this street project is well underway. This phase includes full-depth street replacement between Woodson and Lamar. Access to all businesses along Mar-

tway in this area remains open during construction, but you will need to follow marked detours or the instructions of on-site flaggers when traveling through the City. The final phase of this project includes mill & overlay between Lamar and Broadmoor, which should begin in late summer. The cherry, so to speak, will be the control (aka signal) device

that will be installed at the corner of Martway and Broadmoor. The street is going to look fantastic!

On Monday, June 3rd, buses began using our new Mission Transit Center and transit stops. The landscaping and painting of the Center look great! The current bus service at the Northeast Johnson County Offices has moved to the Transit Center, and now includes enhanced JoConnex service along the Metcalf/Shawnee Mission Parkway Transit Corridor. The Transit Center, as well as our new transit stations along Martway, were made possible by Federal TIGER funds, and will make bus services more attractive to our current riders, as well as those who have not yet tried the bus. Please try riding the bus, especially this summer, when pollution issues are often at their worst.

There are several events coming up this summer: Mission ArtWalk and Mission Summer Family Picnic. The Mission ArtWalks are held on the second Friday evening of the month — mark your calendars for July 12th and August 9th. This year the Mission ArtWalks will be held on Dearborn beginning at 5:00 p.m. (This is a block west of the event location the past couple of years.) Come to enjoy and shop art from many local artists, live music, and food and drinks from Mission restaurants. Additional information on the ArtWalks is available at www.missionartwalk.com.

An annual favorite is the Mission Summer Family Picnic held the second Saturday

in July. For those new to town, the Mission Summer Family Picnic includes our traditional free picnic dinner, live music, fireworks and fun activities for the family, with a special appearance by Consolidated Fire District No. 2's spray truck! Word of caution, for those of you with children, make sure they wear play clothes...they'll have a blast and they'll get dirty! Activities begin at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 13th in Broadmoor Park. It is a great way to connect with others in our City and to get to know your neighbors. I look forward to seeing you!

Sincerely,

Laura L. McConwell

Laura L. McConwell, Mayor



**Come and say good-bye to
an old friend...**

**Mission Pool's Farewell Party
Sunday, August 11th
12:00 noon – 6:00 p.m.**

Don't miss this opportunity to bid a fond farewell to our pool! Join us for food, games, and music at our farewell party. And, a photographer will be on hand to take your picture at the "old pool." **Our new pool will be coming in May 2014!**

TALKIN' TRASH

With the long summer days finally here, residents are spending more time working to improve both their homes and yards. As you undertake these projects, please remember that Mission's solid waste collection program offers weekly solid waste, recycling, and yard waste collection, and monthly bulky item pickup.

Monthly bulky item pickup is a great way to ensure that large items to be disposed of do not "pile up" on your property. This service is provided on your FIRST solid waste trash pickup of each month. There is often confusion about what is considered a "bulky item" and how many items may be placed at the curb each month. You are allowed two large bulky items monthly. Please remember that bulky trash does not include construction and demolition waste from remodeling and repair projects. These items will not be picked up if placed at the curb. If you have a question about whether or not an item qualifies for bulky item pickup, please contact our Neighborhood Services Department at 913-676-8390.

Recycling in Mission is unlimited, but stickers must be purchased for any additional bags of solid waste that do not fit in your cart. If you have additional recycling, it should be placed in another container that is clearly marked "recycling." Yard waste must be placed in biodegradable paper bags, a 32-gallon (or less) bin, or bundles no larger than 4 feet long and 18 inches in diameter, and each residence is allowed six yard waste items per week. During the fall, this limit is increased to 12 yard waste items per collection. Deffenbaugh "Overage Stickers" may be purchased for \$1.50 each

at City Hall or the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center and may be used for additional trash or yard waste bags.

It is important that hazardous waste items be disposed of safely. These items are not collected by Deffenbaugh. If you have items such as old paint, household chemicals, used motor oil, or other items that may be considered hazardous, please contact Johnson County's Hazardous Materials Collection Facility at 913-715-6900 to schedule an appointment. Appointments can generally be scheduled for the week you call and mobile pickup is available to homebound residents.

With all of these disposal options available to residents, we can each do our part to maintain the value of our homes, and the vibrancy and quality of our neighborhoods.

"Trashology 101"
Thursday, August 22nd
5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Sylvester Powell, Jr.
Community Center

Join us as we pull back the curtain on your trash to reveal the true impacts of trash and recyclables after they leave your curb. The Johnson County Department of Health and Environment staff will present a virtual tour of our waste after it leaves the curb on Thursday, August 22nd at 5:30 p.m. at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center. This is a behind-the-scenes look at the everyday resources we take for granted, and an eye-opening opportunity to be a better steward of the Earth's resources.

This program is free and no registration is required. For more information, contact Rosalind Johnson at 913-676-8390.



Tree City!

Jacquie Gameson and Dave Haws, members of Mission's Tree Board, presented Mayor McConwell with the 2012 Tree City Award. This is the 11th consecutive year that Mission has been designated as a "Tree City USA."

Championship Tree nominations are being accepted through July 1st. Nomination forms are available at www.missionks.org

City Resources Available to Assist You

Mission has many ways to keep residents informed with easy access to documents and services. Our website, www.missionks.org, includes a calendar listing special events and city meetings, access to City Council, board and commission "packets" of information, City Codes, and departmental information and services. Join us on Facebook and Twitter to connect with others and to get information not only on City events and news, but also a wide variety of community information. Additionally, you may sign up to receive the Mayor's Update e-mail newsletter by e-mailing City Clerk Martha Sumrall at msumrall@missionks.org.

Below is a listing of some of the information/services available on www.missionks.org:

- Information on current job openings • Frequently asked questions • Municipal Code • Online ticket payments
- Accident Reports • Pet Registration • Public Records

Residents are always welcome to call City staff with concerns, questions, or to request additional information.

Administration	913-676-8350
Community Development	913-676-8360
Neighborhood Services.....	913-676-8390
Public Works.....	913-676-8375
Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center	913-722-8200
Police Department – Non Emergencies	913-676-8300



Mission Welcomes New City Administrator

The City of Mission welcomed Gerry Vernon as City Administrator on June 3rd. Following a national search, the Mayor and City Council interviewed several finalists, selecting Mr. Vernon to fill this important position as the City's chief administrative officer.

Mr. Vernon is a native of Colby, Kansas and began his career in public service by working in both their Public Works Department and Fire Department. He also spent many years in Smithville, Missouri, where he worked in the Public Works Department, ultimately serving as their City Administrator. From Smithville he continued his career in city administration in Junction City, Kansas, serving as their city manager for nearly three years. Mr. Vernon has a bachelor's degree from Kansas State and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Kansas. Additionally, he is a certified manager and member of the International City/County Manager's Association.

According to Mayor McConwell, "Vernon's experience

enables him to hit the ground running. His team approach and commitment to community engagement and communication, staff support and development are all values that will benefit Mission. His solid public works background and creative thinking will only serve to improve our many infrastructure projects. He has proven that he can balance a tight budget and small staff with delivery of services."

"Mission has a strong sense of community and the Mayor and City Council have expressed a desire to address infrastructure needs, to utilize good planning, and to engage with the public to create something special," stated Vernon. In his role as City Administrator, Mr. Vernon is responsible for managing the City's affairs, including day-to-day operations and the implementation of policies set by the Governing Body. The City Administrator also oversees and coordinates the supervision of all City departments.

He looks forward to meeting Mission's many residents and business owners, and may be reached at 913-676-8350 or gvernon@missionks.org.

Mission Transit Center Opens



The Mission Transit Center began serving bus riders on Monday, June 3rd. City staff and volunteers were on hand to greet riders during their morning commute. JoConnex service provides enhanced transit service along the Metcalf/Shawnee Mission Parkway Corridor from Rosana Square at 119th and Metcalf to Kansas City, Missouri. Information on routes and services is available at www.thejo.com.



Mission Summer Family Picnic!

The annual Mission Summer Family Picnic is scheduled for Saturday, July 13th at Broadmoor Park. As in years past, this free event will include live music, a picnic dinner, inflatables for the kids, the Mission Fire Department's spray event, and our fireworks display. This event kicks off at 6:30 p.m., so plan to pack your folding chairs and blankets, and come out to enjoy a relaxing evening with old and new friends from Mission! For additional information on the Mission Summer Family Picnic, please visit the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center page at www.sylvesterpowell.com or call 913-722-8200.



Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Tips

The Mission Police Department reminds everyone to always be aware of cyclists and pedestrians, especially during the summer months when many more people are enjoying these outdoor activities. Below are tips for safe walking and cycling.

1. Pay Attention

- Motorists are faced with many distractions while they are driving; never assume motorists will be paying attention to you.
- Even if you have the right of way, you will lose in a collision.
- Be aware of any hazards, such as pot holes or suspicious people.

2. Wear a Helmet

- Nearly 70% of bicycle deaths are related to head injuries.
- Helmets are over 85% effective in abating head injuries.

3. Be Visible

- Wear bright-colored clothing during the day and reflective clothing or tape at night.
- Make sure bicycles are equipped with rear and pedal reflectors which show motion.
- Bicycles ridden at night must have a white light visible from the front.

4. Bicycles in the Roadway

- The laws of the road apply to cyclists; watch stop signs and traffic lights.

- Motorists may not understand hand signals. When making a turn or lane change, make eye contact with the driver and point to where you are going.
- Keep an eye on stopped vehicles. Watch for car doors that may be opening or people who may suddenly pull away from a curb or back out of a driveway.
- Always ride your bicycle on the same side of the street as traffic. Motorists generally don't look for traffic on the wrong side of the street.
- Adults and teenagers should stay on roads and mixed use trails and leave the sidewalks for pedestrians and young children who are riding slowly.

5. Pedestrians in the Roadway

- Use crosswalks when available.
- Stop and look before walking into the street. Make eye contact with drivers so you know they see you.
- Pedestrians must use the sidewalk when provided and need to walk opposite the flow of traffic if there is no sidewalk.

We care about your safety. Remember to pay attention and stay safe.



MISSION CITY HALL

6090 Woodson Road, Mission, Kansas 66202

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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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
Debbie Kring913-722-6901

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Suzanne Gibbs913-671-8564
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Master penman Michael Sull, who keeps an office in Mission, was Ronald Reagan's calligrapher after his presidency.
PHOTO BY KEVIN BLAYNEY

The art and skill of handwriting are alive in Mission

PENMANSHIP EXPERT MICHAEL SULL IS ONE OF
11 CERTIFIED MASTER PENMEN IN THE WORLD

by

Leather Swan

When kids are asked what they want to be when they grow up, “master penman” is probably not at the top of their list ... or on the list at all.

Michael Sull certainly didn't think he would become a certified master penman someday. But now this 64-year-old keeps an office in Mission and the art (and skill) of handwriting alive.

Sull is one of only 11 certified master penmen in the world

and is considered a world-class expert on penmanship. His company, Lettering Design Group (now called American Cursive Handwriting), has been in Mission since 1998. Sull travels around the world teaching penmanship workshops and selling his products (like the oblique pen holders he makes in Mission for penmen to use), does lettering on certificates, wedding invitations and other commissioned works,

and writes books about handwriting. He is currently writing a manual for the corporate market, which will teach a style of handwriting that is a combination of cursive and print that can be done quickly and legibly.

Sull has many claims to fame in the world of handwriting:

- He was Ronald Reagan's calligrapher after his presidency. He never met Reagan personally, but he had the opportunity to do the calligraphy for about 20 certificates that Reagan commissioned (via his chief of staff) from 1990 to 1996.
- Sull has done the lettering on the nomination certificates for the Academy Awards.
- He is an expert on Spencerian Script, an American style of handwriting developed by Platt Rogers Spencer in the 1820s. It differed from English-style script, which was uniform, time-consuming and taxing on the finger muscles. Spencerian Script (inspired by nature and easier on the hand) became the standard across the United States before the Civil War until the 1920s, when the invention of the typewriter made this style of writing obsolete in the business world. Sull has written two books on the topic: "Spencerian Script and Ornamental Penmanship" (which documents the beauty and history of this American-style of handwriting) and "Learning to Write Spencerian Script."
- Sull worked to get the Spencerian Monument for American Handwriting on display in Geneva, Ohio, where Platt Rogers Spencer invented his style of penmanship. The monument was dedicated in August 2012 and is the only public recognition of America's handwriting heritage in the country.

"A big part of this country's history was buried and forgotten," he said.

- You can see some of Sull's work on display in the Kansas City area. At Mission City Hall, Sull did the lettering on the portraits of the city's mayors. His lettering can also be seen on a mural at the Kansas City Public Library at 10th and Baltimore.
- Sull is a past president of the International Association of Master Penmen, Engrossers and Teachers of Handwriting (IAMPETH) and is currently director of the organization's Master Penmanship Program.
- Movie-goers will see Sull's hand holding a quill when the documentary "We the People" is released in IMAX theaters.

Being a penman was a very traditional American occupation in the 19th and early 20th centuries. But with typewriters (and now computers), handwriting has taken a backseat. Public schools are

not teaching handwriting as much or at all anymore, and teachers are not being trained on how to teach the subject.

Sull has been able to find a niche with homeschooling parents, who see handwriting as an important life skill, and he attends a lot of homeschooling conventions. Homeschooling mothers asked Sull to write a book on how to teach penmanship, so he wrote "American Cursive Handwriting." This is the most thorough traditional penmanship instructional book to be written in the United States in more than 60 years, according to Sull.

In August, he is traveling to Mexico City and will be the first person to teach Spencerian Script in Mexico.

"I'm trying to preserve an important skill," said Sull, a former lettering artist at Hallmark. "Handwriting is a uniquely human activity. It's very special for people."

Sull — who some people refer to as a "handwriting evangelist" — didn't start out with the intentions of being a master penman, although he was always impressed with his mother's pretty Palmer penmanship and had good handwriting for a boy his age.

Instead, he graduated from college with a degree in forestry, joined the U.S. Navy and then took a job working for the Boy Scouts.

While living in Virginia, he pursued his interest in calligraphy (a European form of hand lettering). He then happened to meet two men who became his teachers: David Fairbanks, who taught Sull how to do American engrossing; and Paul O'Hara, who himself graduated from the Zanerian School of Penmanship (which was considered the Harvard of penmanship in its time).

O'Hara eventually declared that Sull was a master penman. All certified master penmen create their own certificate as proof of their ability, and Sull's is on display in his Mission office. Look around a little more and

you will also see O'Hara's desk from 1909 and a portrait of Platt Rogers Spencer.

"Everything in here is a long story," Sull said.

Besides preserving the history of handwriting, Sull's work is proof that a beautifully written letter makes people smile in a way that no computer or typewriter can.

And our handwriting tells a lot about who we are and can express feelings and emotions in a very unique and personal way.

"I'm still optimistic that people will see the value in corresponding by hand and that they will realize their character will always be in their signature," he said. "Their signature should be something they are proud of."

For more information about Michael Sull, visit his website at www.spencerian.com.



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SUMMER SPECIALS

TASTE OF SUMMER-TINI
PINNACLE Cucumber Watermelon Vodka, cranberry, Triple Sec and lime

MANKINI-TINI
PINNACLE Mango Vodka, lemonade, orange juice, splash of Sprite

CHERRY LEMONADE
PINNACLE Cherry Lemonade Vodka, Sprite and sour

PINNACLE COSMO
PINNACLE Vodka, Triple Sec, lime and cranberry

ORANGE WHIPPED SHOT
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SUMMER SPECIALS

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July 12, 2013 & August 9, 2013

5-9 pm

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Farmers Insurance (Agent Jeff Driver, 913-362-4500) is teaming up with FreeWheels for Kids to collect used bicycles during the July Mission ArtWalk. FreeWheels for Kids, a not-for-profit organization that exists to help get kids on bikes more often and more safely, redistributes the bicycles it collects to children who need them.

FreeWheels
for
Kids



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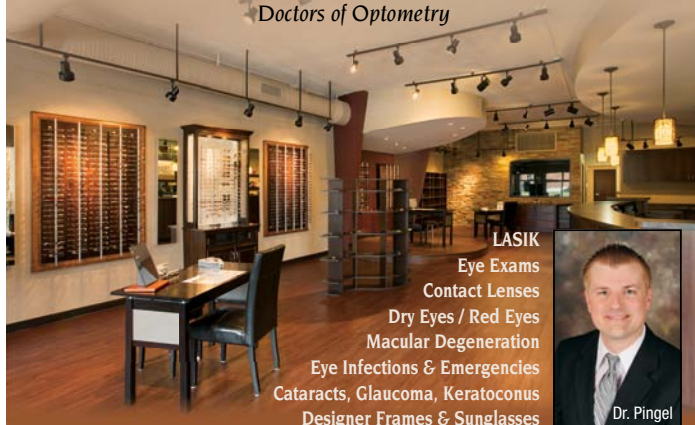
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The Bike 4 the Brain event includes a Tricycle Challenge, where adults can pit their tricycle racing skills against each other.

Annual event ready to roll in Mission for its eighth year

BIKE 4 THE BRAIN RAISES AWARENESS AND FUNDS FOR MENTAL HEALTH

By Heather Swan



Bike 4 the Brain was founded by Dr. Ken Sonnenschein, left, a child and adolescent psychiatrist. He is pictured with Janet Watkins, center, and Kit Smith.

Just seven years ago, about 100 cyclists, runners and walkers gathered in the parking lot of the Johnson County Northeast Offices in Mission for the first-ever Bike 4 the Brain.

On a roll ever since, this community bicycle ride, walk and run event has become an annual gathering that starts at 6000 Lamar (home to the Johnson County Mental Health Center) every Labor Day. Although Bike 4 the Brain has grown over the years (last year it had 450 participants), the goals are the same. Organizers still hope it increases awareness about mental health disorders; helps people understand these as brain-based illnesses with emotional, behavioral and cognitive symptoms; and raises funds for Kansas City agencies and organizations that help people affected by mental illness.

Bike 4 the Brain is the brainchild, so to speak, of Dr. Ken Sonnenschein, a child and adolescent psychiatrist with Kansas City Psychiatric Group. As an avid cyclist, Sonnenschein would participate in rides that raised awareness about a wide variety of “challenges to the human condition” but none focused on mental health.

“It seemed like there should be a ride for mental health,” he said.

Bike 4 the Brain recently awarded \$2,500 grants to six organizations that are improving mental health in the Kansas City community: Amethyst Place, Community LINC, MOCSA, Niles Home for Children, Skills to Succeed and The Whole Person. This brings the total grants awarded by Bike 4 the Brain over the past seven years to \$52,500.

Besides raising awareness and funds for a good cause, Bike 4 the Brain offers a lot of ways for members of the community to participate, including urban/rural cycling courses of 3, 10, 33, 55 and 72 miles.

People can also participate in the Run 4 Recovery, a non-competitive and un-timed 5K fun run/walk, at 8:15 a.m.; a one-mile Walk 4 Recovery (which goes through Mission) at 10 a.m.; and a Tricycle Challenge, where adults who donate \$100 pit their child-size tricycle racing skills against each other, at 10:30 a.m. (Children can race the tricycle course at 11 a.m.)

In addition, Bike 4 the Brain features a Recovery Information Exchange, where local agencies share information about mental health topics and the services they provide, and refreshments are provided by Liberty Fruit Company, Panera Bread, Freddy’s Frozen Custard, Whole Foods Market and Lattéland.

“It brings a lot of people to the city of Mission who come because of the ride,” Sonnenschein said. “...If you put on an event that is safe, fun and engaging, people sign up and show up.

“The City of Mission has been a willing partner and so has the community.”

The eighth-annual Bike 4 the Brain will be held on Monday, Sept. 2, with registration beginning at 6:30 a.m. and the event officially starting at 8 a.m. For more information, visit the website at www.bikeforthebrain.org.

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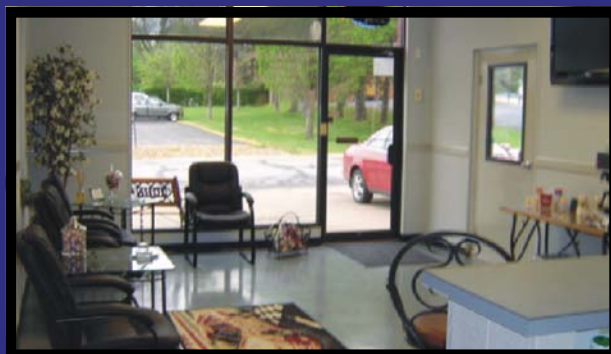
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July 2013 Events:

MISSION **SUMMER** Family Picnic

JULY 13, 2013 6:30pm - Dusk

FREE ADMISSION

Broadmoor Park (57th & Broadmoor)

Free Entertainment, Food & Fun for all ages!

This community picnic is a great way to spend an evening with neighbors & friends! The City of Mission brings the fun to you with live music, a traditional summer cookout, fireworks display, water games, family games and activities! Be prepared to get sprayed by the Consolidated Fire District #2! The Mission Police Department will have a booth set up as part of their National Night Out.

6:30pm Inflatables & Food - *first come, first serve*
7:00pm Band Performs
7:30pm Consolidated Fire District #2 Sprays
8:00pm Music
Dusk Fireworks Display Presented by the Mission City Council

AQUA JAMZ

6:00 - 8:00pm

July 10 - Brandon Draper on Drums

July 24 - Mr. Stinky Feet

Come join us for a **FREE** night of music at the Mission Municipal Pool (61st & Woodson) our concession stand will be open so plan to have dinner there as well!

OUT-TO-LUNCH CONCERT

JULY 26 - 11:30am -1:00pm

The Good Sam Band
at Andersen Park

Take a break from work, grab the kids or bring your work to the park for this Friday Afternoon Concert! The first 30 people to the park will get a free lunch! (a hotdog, bag of chips & a drink!)



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