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MAY 2016

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65

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Happy Birthday, Mission!

You are invited to grab a cup of coffee, get settled in your favorite easy chair, and sit back and relax as we take you down memory lane sharing stories from Mission's past 65 years. Mission has such a rich history and in order for us to capture every single part of it, the magazine editorial board hosted a luncheon for 30 past business owners, residents and employees so we could hear their versions of our history. What a great reunion it was! There was lots of sharing, laughing, reminiscing and debating; but in the end, we all agreed, Mission is, was and will always be the best place to live, work and play!

Have you ever thought of 65 things you can do in Mission? With your help, we have given you our list — but I know you will have many more of your own favorites to add to the list!

When you are out and about, drive by 53rd and Walmer and get a glimpse of what Mission's homes used to look like. I had the honor of getting a tour of the inside of one of those old homes — and as a member of the older generation, I was immediately drawn to the window seat and spiral staircase — bringing back memories of my childhood home.

Visiting with Scot Sparks, owner

of Town Topic, was the highlight of my day! He comes from a family of integrity who still serves hamburgers the old fashion way — using fresh ingredients served daily with lots of love from their staff.

Talking with Mrs. Raydo, the former owner of the Muntzel-Keach, building left me wishing I was younger and had her for my mentor. What a lady! Even after she sold Muntzel Keach, she could still be found tending to the flowerbeds surrounding the building.

Ahhhh.... We've seen the pride, the love, the people and heard the stories! Thank you to all of you who answered our call for Mission history. Your memories have served you well and you spoke as if the stories just happened yesterday. This issue could be double the size, but this should wet your appetite to learn more. So here's to the past, the present and the future of Mission! Enjoy the stories!

Suzie Gibbs
Councilmember, Ward IV



On our 65th anniversary edition cover:

Clockwise from top: Rotary Plaza on Johnson Drive; Mission's new pool that opened in the summer of 2014; a 1929 photo of a restaurant located on the south side of Johnson Drive, west of Nall; Mack True Value Hardware on Johnson Drive; a 1929 photo of the first filling station in Mission located at Johnson Drive and Nall.

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Mission

Your Hometown

MAY 2016

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Mission

at 65:

A community with something for everyone



By Barbara Bayer and Linda Friedel

This year marks the City of Mission's 65th anniversary, but its history stretches back more than two centuries when, even before white settlers arrived, small, nomadic Kansas and Osage Indian tribes lived in Northeast Kansas. Then in 1825, the federal government gave all of Johnson County to the Shawnee tribe.

Originally called Mission Hill Acres in 1926, this area was subdivided into 245 lots and offered by the Breyfogel family for sale. By 1935 there were five businesses in the suburb — a drug store, restaurant, hardware and dry goods store, a barber shop, and a cleaning and pressing establishment. Postal authorities recommended in 1938 that the name of Mission Hill Acres be shortened to Mission.

When it was incorporated in 1951, its population was less than 2,000. Mission has grown to more than 9,300 residents and nearly 700 businesses that attract more than 25,000 people to the area on an average business day to work, shop or play in the city. Its budget has grown from \$86,000 to \$16 million.

Mayor Steve Schowengerdt has lived in Mission his entire life and has seen it change, yet stay the same in many ways. "Our churches, schools and neighborhoods are strong and provide families with a lot of friendships and support. Our pool is still an important part of the community. We still have local 'mom and pop' businesses where people know you by name, and you can get excellent customer service. And even though you might not be able to see a movie at the Dickinson Theatre anymore, there is still plenty to do in Mission."

As the city's top official, Mayor Schowengerdt definitely believes Mission is a great place to live. "Mission always manages to keep its 'small town feel,' even in the middle of the Kansas City metro area. No matter where you go you can count on seeing someone you know. The people make this city great!"

Mission's Favorite Sons

Several of Mission's early residents have been honored with streets named after them — John Roe, Edwin Walmer and war hero John Lewis Barkley. The city's only Medal of Honor winner, he adopted the area as his home following World War I. Walmer and Barkley — who were related by marriage — were very generous to the community, donating their time and expertise, or land and money, for projects such as Hickory Grove School. Located at the southwest corner of Johnson Drive and Lamar, the original one-room schoolhouse was replaced with a larger, stone building in 1916. That second building burned down in 1949. According to Joan Barkley Wells, a stipulation of the land use on which the school sits is that it be used for a school only, any other use would require ownership to revert back to the family. In 1998 officials decided to demolish the old elementary school, which had been rebuilt after the 1949 fire. It reopened in the 2001-02 school year as an alternative education facility in the Shawnee Mission School District known as Horizons High School.

The city's best known building — the Sylvester Powell, Jr.



Community Center, which opened in 1999 — is named after the city's most famous (and sometimes most controversial) resident, Sylvester Powell Jr. He served the city as its mayor for a total of 35 years, first serving a 10-year term beginning in 1955 and again from 1977 until his death in 2002.

Powell is remembered fondly by many as “a real character.”

“Mayor Powell and his unique style of leadership,” certainly put Mission on the map, noted Mission City Attorney Dave Martin.

Bill McCrea, a Mission resident since 1958, will never forget how Mayor Powell rerouted the 1996 Olympic Torch Relay to Johnson Drive and through Mission's business district, instead of along Shawnee Mission Parkway, as the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games originally wanted to do. Powell insisted the historic event should proceed down Johnson Drive, where there was ample parking and space for people to watch the event, and threatened to actually shut down Shawnee Mission Parkway if he didn't get his way. The committee eventually complied and ran the relay on Johnson Drive. According to the City of Mission, the relay attracted between 2,500 and 3,000 spectators.

“He was going to make us block it off with all our city equipment,” recalled Public Works Assistant Superintendent Kenny York.

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Top: The Groundbreaking of the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center. The building opened in 1999.

Right: Sylvester Powell, Jr. served a total of 35 years as mayor of Mission. He died in 2002 while in office.





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Retired judge and longtime Mission resident Frank Hursh remembers the mayor's take-charge attitude, causing him to often barrel through the city.

"When the mayor was driving he didn't stop at the lights. He said he didn't have to because "this is my town."

Mission City Councilwoman Suzie Gibbs, who also served as Mission city clerk from February 1982 to June 1988, agreed Mayor Powell was a character and stories like these are typical of his behavior.

"When he snapped his fingers, everyone was supposed to jump."

Top: Sylvester Powell, Jr. rode in many parades through the City of Mission during his tenure as mayor.

Below: Mayor Steve Schowengerdt attends a variety of community events including this Valentine's Day event at Bickford at Mission Springs.

Mission's Small Town Atmosphere

At 106, Gertrude Stern is thought to be the city's oldest resident. She moved to Countryside in 1950, a year before the cities of Countryside and Mission were incorporated in 1951. (Countryside officially became part of the City of Mission in 2003.) At the time she said there were farms to the south, west and north. Johnson Drive was a simple two-lane brick road and Shawnee Mission Parkway didn't exist at all.

Things have changed since then but one of the things Mission residents continue to enjoy is the small town feel of the city. City Attorney David Martin has worked for the city since 1977. Mayor Powell tapped him for the job soon after he passed the bar



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exam. Martin recalls happy times growing up in Mission where the Mission swimming pool was the center of activities for the majority of neighborhood children during the summer months. He also fondly remembers when Mission held street dances at City Hall and Mission Pool's parking lot.

At a luncheon celebrating Mission's 65th anniversary, several longtime residents voiced what they thought were reasons the city is so special. One of those reasons is the city's residential homes, classified as unique and not "cookie cutter."

"That adds to Mission's individuality," notes McCrea.

Now that Johnson Drive has been renovated, Mary Weber, whose husband John is a past member of the City Council, says it looks beautiful. It's just one of the reasons people enjoy shopping in the city.

"One of the real charms of Mission is that you can pull right up to the businesses and the shops are wonderful," notes Linda Sisney, who along with her husband Brian owned Sisney and Company Commercial Realtors from 1989 to 2000. She is currently a residential real estate broker.

Another plus is that many of the merchants have been in Mission for decades, something that appeals to The Welstone at Mission Crossing resident Aurora Romero.

"I shop where they know me, and I feel comfortable and safe."

An added bonus that gives Mission the big city conveniences its residents love is the variety of eating establishments.

"I think we may have more restaurants than any other city in the United States," said Hursh at the luncheon.

There's also plenty of fun stories involving Johnson Drive businesses from days gone by. Doug Gregg, owner of the city's oldest business AnswerPro, likes to tell a story from when he was 9 years old. Like many young folks at the time, he and his friends enjoyed hanging out at Crown Drug Store (before it was Crown Drug it was Cook, Paint and Varnish and now it's Hartman Hardware). Among the things they would do was peruse the magazine rack, especially looking at ones that may not have been considered appropriate for boys that age!

Gregg enjoyed growing up in Mission as did thousands of others.

"Our boys thank us for living in Mission. They said it's the best childhood they could have ever asked for," remarks Helen Fisher.

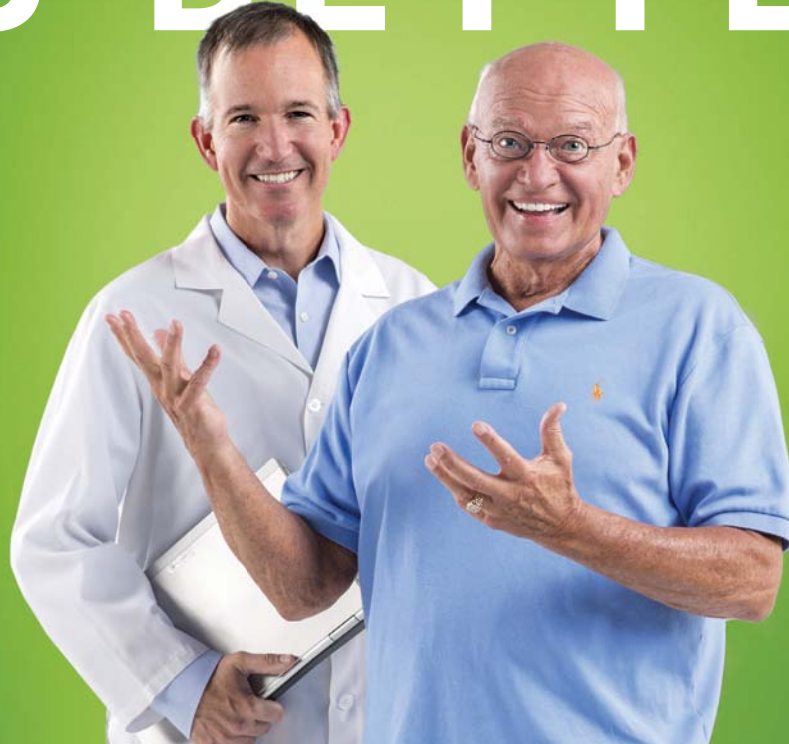
Hersh Casey, who just recently closed his business Casey Brothers Sinclair on Johnson Drive after 56 years, said he wouldn't want to live anywhere else.

Many others would make that statement today as well. As Sisney the Realtor says, "People still want to live here. It's location, location, location."

Below: The Capitol Federal building on Johnson Drive opened in 2010.



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37 Years of LOYALTY

Longtime Public Works employee prepares to retire

BY BARBARA BAYER



Kenny York, Mission Public Works Department assistant superintendent, has seen plenty of change since he started working for the city in 1979. Mayor Sylvester Powell, Jr. hired York as a part time employee in August of that year and just a few months later York decided to make the switch to full time. But since he had a young family at the time, he wasn't sure he could afford to work for the city at the rate of \$4 per hour unless he held a second job.

"Mayor Powell didn't like that idea. He wanted to know his employees were devoted to the city 24/7 and were available any time if they were needed," York recalled. "Because I needed more money, he said he would give me as much overtime as I could handle. And he did."

"The mayor took care of you and you needed to make sure you took care of him and the city, too. He would say, 'Are you taking care of MY city?'"

One way the Public Works department took care of the mayor was to make sure when a snowstorm hit, his street was plowed quickly.

"At the time 'the barn' (the old maintenance building) was at Lamar and I-35, and the mayor lived at the other end of the city. But we would make our way over there as best we could to clean his street," York said.

"He also wanted us to do snow removal for the older residents if they had a hard time doing it themselves. We did the same with pumping basements after floods."

Over the years a lot has changed for Public Works, including its equipment and the state-of-the-art air-conditioned building that houses the department today.

"It's the Taj Mahal compared to what we used to have," said York with a huge smile on his face. "Our equipment has changed drastically. Sylvester Powell thought equipment should last forever. We had trucks that had holes in the floorboard. The old trucks all had stick shifts and now they are all automatic."

One of those old trucks needed chains on the tires during a big snowfall.

"I used to dread getting called in to clear snow with that truck. Sometimes it was so deep we just couldn't get it through the snow."

York said working for the city, during the early part of his tenure especially, was like working with family.

"We were really tight and we all — meaning the Police Department and Public Works and city officials — got along," he reminisced.

"I especially remember when they tore down the old City Hall and we moved the city offices and the Police Department to the old Mission Mall. It was a challenge. City Hall was in one room and the Police Department was in another. When it was all done, we just sat around and relaxed. Ernie Neal, one of our co-workers, said to us, 'Take a good look around because you will never see this again.'"

Another of his favorite memories is Mission Night at the Royals, when Mayor Powell made sure all employees who wanted had tickets to the game and went there together on a bus.

"We really enjoyed those times."

Even now, since he lives in Mission, it's not a problem for him to take a few extra minutes to help out when someone needs a little assistance with something after hours.

When he retires in June, he may not be fixing things around the city anymore, but he will still be doing some of that around the house. York said he and his wife, Cathy, plan to do some of those little things they've been wanting to do to the house as well as do some traveling.

Left: Public Works employees, including Kenny York, far right, attended the groundbreaking of the city's new maintenance building. They wore tuxes that had been discarded by a tuxedo shop in the city.





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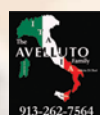
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The restaurant is all about serving authentic Italian food in a family atmosphere.

Longtime employee Billy McGill has worked with the Avellutos since the original restaurant opened in the Indian Springs Shopping Center and can attest to the family atmosphere.

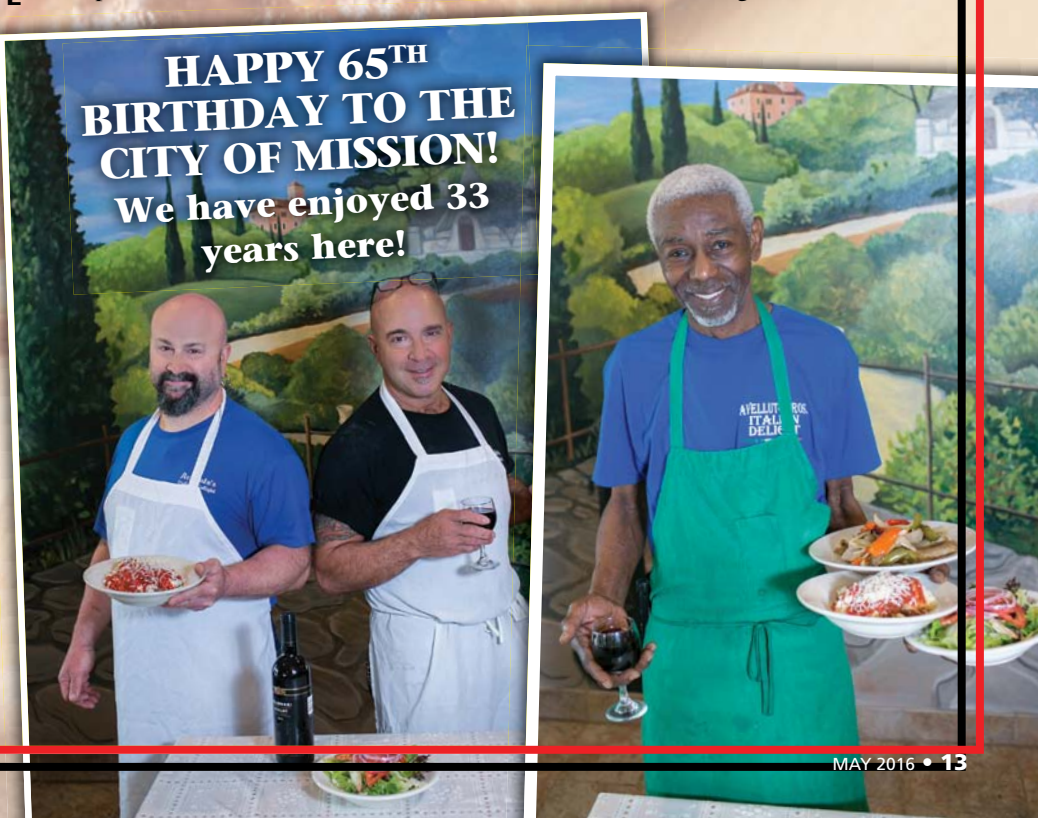
"I've been with them so long I feel like I'm part of the family," he said. "They are great people. Their father was great and the sons are, too."

And you will more than likely see John and his wife Patti and James and his wife Melissa — and maybe some of their kids — working at Avelluto's Italian Delight on any given day.

"We are just like everybody else. We want people to feel like they are at home," said Melissa Avelluto, who has been working at the restaurant since her son was 4 months old. He's now 22.

For more information about the restaurant regarding catering or carryout, please call 913-262-7564. You can also learn more at italiandelightmission.com.

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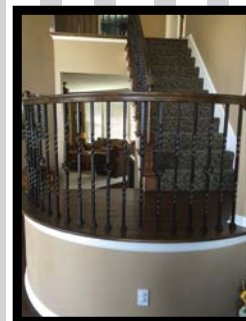
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DID YOU KNOW

Old-timers and newcomers to Mission alike
are full of little tidbits about their city.
Here's just a few ...

GOOD THINGS COME IN THREES

For the first time in Kansas history three cities were incorporated in the same county on the same day. The historic date was July 2, 1951, when Johnson County commissioners announced the incorporation of Mission, Roeland Park and Countryside. At that time, Mission's population was 1,852.

LAW AND ORDER

The first Northeast Johnson County Courthouse was in Mission in what now is the southwest corner of Johnson Drive and Barkley.

LET IT BURN

Instead of de-constructing older houses slated to be torn down, the Mission Fire Department, now Consolidated Fire District 2, used to burn the houses to practice their skills.

A ROAD WELL TRAVELED

Johnson Drive was once a brick road that the Indians had paved. It was completely renovated and rededicated in late 2015.

CHEERS!

The Keyhole is the longest operating private club in Johnson County.



Bud's Drive In was
located on Johnson Drive
where Capitol Federal
Savings now sits.

LEGAL EAGLES

A Martin has been the city's attorney all but 13 years since 1951. Keith Martin served as Mission's first city attorney from 1951 to 1964. Current City Attorney David Martin took the job in 1977.

ROUND 'EM UP COWBOY!

In 2001, longtime KCMO-AM Radio talk show personality Mike Murphy moved his annual cattle drive to Downtown Mission and Johnson Drive as part of the city's 50th anniversary.

BUILDING IN THE ROUND

Before it was razed for Sylvester Powell Jr., Community Center, there was a building on the site known for its unique architecture. A one-story circular medical building won awards for its construction and unusual design.

It was well-built, made of steel and reinforced with exceptionally strong screws. The facility had four entrances and a fountain in the center. The entrances all looked alike so visitors had to remember the exact door they entered to find their way out.

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

The current City Hall building is the third for the city. After the second City Hall building was torn down, city government employees were temporarily housed at Mission Shopping Center and the Police Department's temporary headquarters was an Old Russell Stover's candy store, located right next door to City Hall.

DANCE, DANCE, DANCE

The original Mission Shopping Center used to host free concerts. Among the bands that played in Mission were Stan Kenton (1963), Duke Ellington (1964), Count Basie (1965), Glenn Miller (1967) and Woody Herman (1968).

IT'S A GRAND 'OLE FLAG

Longtime resident Helen Fisher was inspired when Johnson County communities lined their streets with American Flags in honor of the fallen. She wanted her city to show its pride in that way as well, so she advocated for the City of Mission to plant flags along Johnson Drive. This past year following the renovation of Johnson Drive, she saw her dream come to fruition when flags began waving on special occasions along Mission's main street.

SERVING THE CITY

Only seven people have served the City of Mission as its mayor in its 65-year history:

C.E. McBride

June 1951-April 1955

Victor Andersen

April 1965-July 1966

George Anderson

July 1966-April 1975

Roland Warman

April 1975-April 1977

Laura McConwell

March 2002-April 2014

Steve Schowengerdt

April 2014 to present

And **Sylvester Powell, Jr.**, who served as mayor twice — the first time from April 1955 through April 1965 and again from April 1977 until his death in March 2002.

Since the renovation of Johnson Drive, flags line the street on special holidays.





Retirees enjoy the good life in Mission

LONGTIME HOMEOWNERS BILL HARE & AURORA ROMERO CHOOSE MISSION FOR RETIREMENT

BY LINDA FRIEDEL • PHOTOS BY KEVIN BLAYNEY

Forget Sun City or the Gulf Coast Shores. Some retirees prefer Mission for their golden years. And why not? Amenities like the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center and a host of shops, restaurants and other convenient services make Mission a desirable place to live. We have two residents weighing in on just what makes Mission the right choice to suit their retirement lifestyles.

Aurora Romero

Aurora Romero has watched the city of Mission mature through the years.

"We have seen Mission grow and become a beautiful city," commented Romero, a retired nurse. "I have enjoyed Mission a lot. I will be here the rest of my life."

Romero and her husband, Luis, bought a house on 55th Street in 1971 after Luis retired from a career with the Marines. On the morning they moved in, they had a chance encounter. While waiting in the front lawn for their furniture to arrive, they noticed a stranger in a suit walking toward them. The fellow waved, then said hello as he stepped into their yard. Luis said good morning to the man, who then introduced himself as Sylvester Powell, Jr., the mayor of Mission. Powell stayed a few minutes to get acquainted, telling them about all about Mission.

"That was our welcome to Mission," Romero recalls.

Not long after their move, the Romeros had to relocate to Kansas

City, Kansas, for Luis' work, but they held on to their Mission home and rented it to family members through the years.

"A Romero has always lived there."

Despite their address, the Romeros considered Mission their home. It's where they shopped, dined, banked and gassed up their vehicles. Luis made a promise to support Mission businesses.

"His philosophy was to use the local merchants in Mission," Romero said. "This is what we have always done."

When the Romeros retired, they were anxious to return to Mission. By then their daughter and her children had settled into the family home, and in order to accommodate the three generations, they remodeled to create an extra living room, bedroom and bathroom for Luis and Aurora.

"It was like a mother-in-law's quarters."

After Luis passed away Romero continued to stay with her daughter. But she was lonely with everyone working all day, so she began thinking about retirement living. Since she wanted to stay in

continued on page 20

Above: Aurora Romero has made Mission her 'forever' home. A retired nurse, she lives in The Welstone at Mission Crossing, a residential community for people 55 and older.

Sully's

mission, kansas pub



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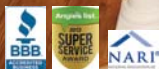


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Consultation Today**



Above: Bill Hare moved to Mission in 1958. Retired from the broadcast industry, he now lives at Mission Square, a residential retirement community.

continued from page 18

Mission, the new Welstone at Mission Crossing was a perfect fit. She moved in February, choosing her apartment for the view over the West Gateway entrance to Mission with all its new businesses and activities. It's been an exciting transition for her. She has made new friends, plays cards with her neighbors every night, and stays toned working out at Welstone's fitness center on a daily basis. Romero also volunteers several days a week, lending her time to St. Pius X Catholic Church and Shawnee Mission Hospital.

"This is my city. This is home for me. I feel very comfortable here."

Bill Hare

Bill Hare retired from the television industry and took up residency in a condominium at Mission Square several years ago. He enjoys the location for its many conveniences.

Mission Square is next door to the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center, where he regularly works out. He is also just blocks away from a grocery store and scores of other Mission area merchants. Hare is especially fond of the underground garage where he parks his car away from the weather. Though he still drives, Hare maintains he can get around Mission on foot.

"This place is well-run, well-managed and well-taken care of," said Hare, 89. "I can walk to lots of places."

Hare and his wife raised their family on Riggs Street in Mission

where the neighborhood was always abuzz. They bought their home in 1958.

"We had a great little neighborhood and a yard full of children all the time."

It was easy for Hare, who is widowed, to retire in Mission. He has always appreciated the small town atmosphere and the city's leadership.

"I knew the community very well," Hare says. "I've always felt the administration of this city is friendly and very supportive of the people here."

Hare enjoys his like-minded neighbors at Mission Square who are active and socially engaged.

"The quality of the people are really key," Hare says. "The residents are super. They are active."

As an avid artist, Hare's condominium pops with color. There are landscapes, seascapes, birds and animals nearly everywhere you look.

"I designed some of the wall space for watercolors and antique furniture."

Hare also volunteers as a member of the Senior Barn Players, a nonprofit organization. Hare and the crew take their shows on the road to senior residential facilities throughout the metro.

"We're amateurs," admits Hare. "But we still enjoy it and I think we do a pretty good job."



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Mission Bulletin Board



Congratulations
to the Shawnee Mission
North Indians who
were crowned the
2016 JNROTC Overall
National Champions
in Pensacola,
Florida, in April.

Meeting Notice

Mission City Council Meetings:
7 p.m. at City Hall
May 18 & June 15

Flags Return to Johnson Drive

The American flags decorating
Johnson Drive will be back!
Honor current or former
military service with a flag
donation. For more information,
contact 913-676-8368 or search
"Flag" on the City's website.

It's a bargain
hunter's delight!



Mission's citywide garage sale
Thursday, May 12 through
Saturday, May 14



BEST OF LUCK!

to Richard Kramer, Shawnee Mission North's principal
for the past nine years, who is leaving the school to
become director of student activities for the district.

Mission Bulletin Board

1951: THE YEAR THAT WAS

*The City of Mission was incorporated.
The average cost of a gallon of gas was 19 cents.
The average cost of a new house was \$9,000.*



Saturdays 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Featuring produce, granola, baked good, soap and lotions, treats, honey, plants and flowers, pastries, jams and jellies, meats, cookies, fudge, food trucks, live music and more.

For more information, visit missionks.org/market.



We are the champions!

Congrats to the Shawnee Mission North boys' basketball team for winning its first Kansas state basketball title since 1964!

WELCOME!

Chris Wiltfong as the new store manager for the Mission Hy-Vee

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Steve Schowengerdt
Mary Schowengerdt



Jim Lockard



Cathy York

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to each of you
and all other
Mission residents
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CITY OF MISSION

Newsletter

MAY 2016
VOLUME 11, ISSUE 2
WWW.MISSIONKS.ORG

Market Season is Here!

The Mission Farm and Flower Market is back for its second season in 2016 and we can't wait for you to join us. With new vendors - including more produce - live music, and the friendliest atmosphere around, the market is the place to be on Saturdays this summer.

Saturdays 7 a.m.-1 p.m.
May-September
5613 Johnson Drive
(Between Nall and Reeds)

Become a FarmFan!

FarmFan is a great new texting service the market will use to send out information on a weekly basis. Users sign up and receive no-



tifications about what is fresh and exciting at the market each week. Use FarmFan to check in at the market and receive special rewards! Register online at www.missionks.org/farmfan or text "mis594" to 913-278-1015.

We are pleased to welcome Mainstreet Credit Union as the market's 2016 Presenting Sponsor! This exciting partnership will help support programming all season long, as well as site improvements. Sponsorship opportunities are still available so please visit www.missionks.org/market for more information.



Connect with us on social media!

Facebook: [missionfarmandflowermarket](https://www.facebook.com/missionfarmandflowermarket)

Twitter: [missionksmarket](https://twitter.com/missionksmarket)

Instagram: [missionksmarket](https://www.instagram.com/missionksmarket)



Mission and Habitat for Humanity offer "A Brush with Kindness"

"A Brush with Kindness" is a neighborhood assistance program that is a joint effort between the City of Mission and Habitat for Humanity. The program helps residents complete a variety of exterior home repairs through the assistance of Habitat for Humanity volunteers. Unlike other residential assistance programs, there are no specific income guidelines or other stated qualifications. Each application will be reviewed and evaluated individually based on the family's need and current situation. To be considered for this program, please contact Neighborhood Services at 913-676-8360. Applications must be submitted by May 31, 2016.

SHARE THE ROAD: KEEPING DOWNTOWN SAFE FOR EVERYONE

As the weather warms up and more people are shopping and dining in downtown Mission, it is important to remember that safety comes first. Both drivers and pedestrians have important roles in making sure everyone interacts safely together. A few reminders:

Pedestrians:

- Always cross at marked crosswalks
- Use pedestrian beacons when available
- Look left-right-left before crossing
- Make eye contact with drivers before crossing
- Look before walking past stopped vehicles

Drivers:

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

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Mission is 65 years young this summer! The City has so much history and tradition, and summer is the perfect time to get out and explore both the old and the new. This issue of the magazine highlights some of the best of Mission's 65 years, and includes great ideas for learning more about our hometown.

The Mission Family Aquatic Center opens for the season on Saturday, May 28th. The pool has been an important amenity for our residents for sixty years, and was updated and improved in 2014 to serve our citizens well into the future. Just ask any long-time Mission resident and I'm sure they can share some great memories from "the pool."

Johnson Drive has always been a hub, even before Mission was officially incorporated. The downtown district continues to welcome new businesses all the time. From Town Topic, our hardware stores, and other businesses that have called Mission home for many years, to the services in Mission, we continue to offer just about anything you need. And, the best way to check out all Johnson Drive has to offer is on foot.

Each summer, your elected officials develop and adopt the City's annual budget for the next year. The budget establishes our priorities and requires us to balance many competing needs. We are always working to address the ever-changing issues that affect Mission, and this year will be no different. However, our task becomes more and more difficult as the Kansas Legislature continues to enact laws that restrict and limit local control and authority. We appreciate the work of the entire NE Johnson County Delegation to support local government.



Your participation and input is critical to our success. I know I speak for all of your elected City Council when I ask you to please get involved in our annual budget process. A schedule of upcoming meetings for our 2017 Budget is included on page 2 of this newsletter. Your attendance at the meetings is important. If you are unable to attend a meeting, you may contact me or your councilmembers with suggestions, questions or concerns.

I also want to extend our thanks to those councilmembers who concluded their terms of office in April. Councilmembers Jennifer Cowdry, Amy Miller and Dave Shepard have done an amazing job in representing the residents of their wards and working to ensure Mission continues to move forward. We all appreciate the many hours each has dedicated to making Mission such a great place to live and work – thank you!

This is a special magazine issue, so please enjoy all the history and fun facts that are included. Remember to "shop local" and support the many businesses that help to make Mission so unique – and I'm looking forward to seeing you at the Market this summer!

Sincerely,

Steve Schowengerdt
Mayor

City Council begins work on 2017 Budget

The City's annual budget process is underway and the public will have a variety of opportunities to participate. Your input is important. City Council will discuss the 2017 budget at worksessions, committee meetings, and Council Meetings over the next several months. Below is a tentative calendar of upcoming meetings. Check the website at missionks.org for updates. Please contact Finance Director Brian Scott with questions: bscott@missionks.org or 913-676-8353.

2017 BUDGET CALENDAR

MAY 11, 2016

Community Investment Program (CIP) / Stormwater / Parks / Streets

JUNE 1, 2016

Review General Fund Budget and Supplemental Requests

JULY 20, 2016

Community Dialogue on 2016 Budget

AUGUST 3, 2016

Public Hearing/Final Review of 2017 Budget

ArtsKC "NOW SHOWING" ON DISPLAY AT COMMUNITY CENTER

Mission is now participating in the ArtsKC Regional Arts Council's "Now Showing" program. "Now Showing" provides local businesses and organizations the chance to host exhibits from local artists on a rotating basis. Mission will feature a new artist quarterly. We're excited to host the work of local artist Elisabeth R. Sauer as our first installation in the program. Her artwork is on display at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center now through the end of May.



MISSION WELCOMES NEW COUNCILMEMBERS



Taking their Oath of Office at the April 20th City Council Meeting are (L-R) Councilmembers Ron Appletoft, Pat Quinn, Kristin Inman, and Nick Schlossmacher.

Nick Schlossmacher, Kristin Inman, and Ron Appletoft are Mission's newest councilmembers. They were sworn in at the April 20th City Council Meeting along with Councilmember Pat Quinn, Ward I, who was elected to his second term. All will serve the residents of Mission for the next four years.

Councilmember Schlossmacher fills the seat vacated by Amy Miller in Ward II. Councilmember Schlossmacher is employed by VinSolutions, located in Mission, where he is a product manager. He has lived in Mission since 2012.

Councilmember Kristin Inman will represent Ward III, where she resides in the Cheshire Court subdivision. Councilmember Inman is retired with over 20 years experience in tax and payroll account management. She also serves as the Treasurer of the Cheshire Court Homes Association.

In Ward IV, Councilmember Ron Appletoft returns to the City Council, filling the seat vacated by David Shepard. Councilmember Appletoft was a Ward IV councilmember from 2002 – 2005. Professionally, Councilmember Appletoft is Chief Financial Officer for WaterOne.

For a map of the City's wards and contact information for all Governing Body members, please visit www.missionks.org or contact the City Clerk at 913-676-8355.

CITY LOOKING FOR BOARD AND COMMISSION MEMBERS

Mission's volunteer Boards and Commissions help to guide City policy on various issues and topics. There are currently positions available on the Parks and Recreation Commission, Sustainability Commission, and Tree Board. If you are interested in serving, we want to hear from you.

Parks and Recreation Commission

(needs members from wards 1, 2 or 3)

- Meets the third Monday evening each month
- Focused on implementation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, which outlines and prioritizes programming, and facility and park improvements
- Members volunteer at events such as the Bunny Eggstravaganza, and the Mission Family Summer Picnic

Sustainability Commission

(needs members from wards 1 or 2)

- Meets the first Monday evening each month
- Provides recommendations on policies pertaining to sustainable growth and development
- Focused on Communities for All Ages initiatives, specifically how Mission is planning for changing demographics in our community

Tree Board

(needs members from wards 1 or 2)

- Meets the second Monday evening each month
- Works to ensure that our community is a Tree City USA
- Provides recommendations for City ordinances regarding the planting and maintenance/removal of trees on City-owned property
- Promotes educational programs and activities at Rushton Elementary School

**If you are interested in becoming involved,
but need more information, please contact:**

Parks & Recreation Commission and/or Tree Board

Christy Humerickhouse

913-722-8210 or chumerickhouse@missionks.org

Sustainability Commission

Emily Randel

913-676-8368 or erandel@missionks.org

If you would like to be considered for appointment, please submit your resume and/or a letter of interest to City Clerk Martha Sumrall at msumrall@missionks.org.



Mission Officers Chad Hodge, Ryan Baylark, and Sgt. Tim Coffey, along with Olathe Officer Ian Mills and Olathe K9 Axel received the Distinguished Service Award for their arrest of a suspect involved in an aggravated battery and attempted kidnapping event.

YOU CAN HELP IMPROVE WATER QUALITY IN OUR AREA

Would you like to install a rain barrel or rain garden on your property this year? Want to plant a tree? The City of Mission, in partnership with Johnson County, is offering Mission property owners grants to install rain barrels, rain gardens, stream buffers, and native trees to help control stormwater runoff. Unmanaged stormwater entering our streams and creeks causes water pollution, stream bank erosion, and downstream flooding. Projects funded by this grant are designed to capture, filter, or slow down the flow of rainwater. Grants reimburse 50% of the cost of installation or planting with some limits. For additional details and applications please contact Neighborhood Services at 913-676-8360.



Ward Meetings Scheduled

Ward II

June 30th
September 29th
December 29th

Ward III

July 21st
October 20th

*All meetings are at the Sylvester Powell, Jr.
Community Center - 7:00 p.m.*



MISSION CITY HALL

6090 Woodson Road, Mission, Kansas 66202

Open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Phone: 913-676-8350 • Fax: 913-722-1415 • www.missionks.org

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

COUNCIL WORKSESSIONS

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

All meetings are open to the public.

GOVERNING BODY

Mayor Steve Schowengerdt.....913-481-3235
City Hall Office.....913-676-8350

COUNCILMEMBERS WARD I

Pat Quinn.....913-207-3106
Jason Vaughn.....816-839-3585

COUNCILMEMBERS WARD II

Archie Rothrock913-568-2872
Nick Schlossmacher.....913-788-6425

COUNCILMEMBERS WARD III

Kristin Inman816-510-7698
Debbie Kring.....913-722-6901

COUNCILMEMBERS WARD IV

Ron Appletoft.....913-677-1706
Suzanne Gibbs.....913-671-8564

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Owner



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GigisCupcakesUSA.com

Town Topic

serves up
nostalgia alongside
its burgers
and fries.

Longtime diner
is still a popular
place after
30 years on
Johnson Drive

By Linda Friedel

Above: Town Topic waitress Nancy Linan and owner Scot Sparks. Photo by Scott Fishman

Nancy Linan and Marta Orozco greet their customers with wide smiles.

They call everyone by their first name, which just happens to be “honey.” It’s what you might expect at Town Topic, one of the area’s most enduring diners, located at 6018 Johnson Drive in Mission.

“I like the people,” says Linan, a waitress and Orozco’s daughter. “All my customers are really, really nice. It’s a relaxed atmosphere, like a family restaurant.”

According to Linan, the most popular item on the menu is the double cheeseburger. For breakfast, which is available all day, it’s the Haystack Sandwich on Texas Toast, topped with an egg, sausage, bacon or ham, cheese and hash browns. Linan’s personal preference is the Truckstop Omelet.

Owner Scot Sparks’ favorite is the grilled

burger, made famous in Kansas City by his grandfather, Claude Sparks, who was Town Topic’s founder and original owner.

“The burger is fresh, never frozen ... an ‘old school’ burger with the onions grilled right in.”

Another of the burger’s secrets is in the ingredients. Since 1946, Town Topic’s meat has come from the L&C Meat Company and is ground fresh every day.

Sparks never pictured himself running the family business, renowned for its hand-dipped malts, hash browns and homemade chili. But the microbiologist, whose degree originally landed him a career in pharmaceutical manufacturing, decided one day to make a career switch. He bought out his uncle’s share of the restaurant, and a few years later acquired his father’s interest. He’s never looked back.

“Dad and Grandpa were adamant about serving the highest quality ingredients, buying the best equipment — really just about everything. That carried over into a work ethic of ‘doing things the right way,’ Sparks shared. “They were amazing role models not just for me, but for everyone that ever worked here.”

Sparks also owns the two Town Topic locations in downtown Kansas City, Missouri. The buildings they call home are pre-fabricated diners that were

manufactured in Wichita in the 1940s. The compact structures, known as Valentine Diners, were built to be operated by one or two people. The first Town Topic opened at 24th and Broadway in 1937. The Mission location, once Whopper Burger and Burgers Unlimited, opened in 1985.

Sparks’ grandmother came up with the name for the business. She noticed how strangers would naturally visit while sharing a meal at the long countertop. Inevitably, topics of the day (“Town Topics”) came up.

“That hasn’t changed,” Sparks said. “It could be a lawyer sitting next to a construction worker. They just strike up a conversation. That has always been the flavor of these stores.”

According to Sparks, the Mission location has been a good fit through the years. The restaurant’s heyday was when Mission Mall was buzzing with activity, though the diner always had a core of loyal customers, he said.

“Downtown Mission has always had that small town Main Street feel to it. It needs a diner down there.”

Sparks sometimes thinks about updating the restaurant, but the customers don’t want to change a thing. They love the 1950s vibe, the servers who call them honey and the familiar menu. And we would agree.





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**1 Free Week
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*Free week may only be used on or after the 5th week of enrollment. Offer valid through June 30, 2016.

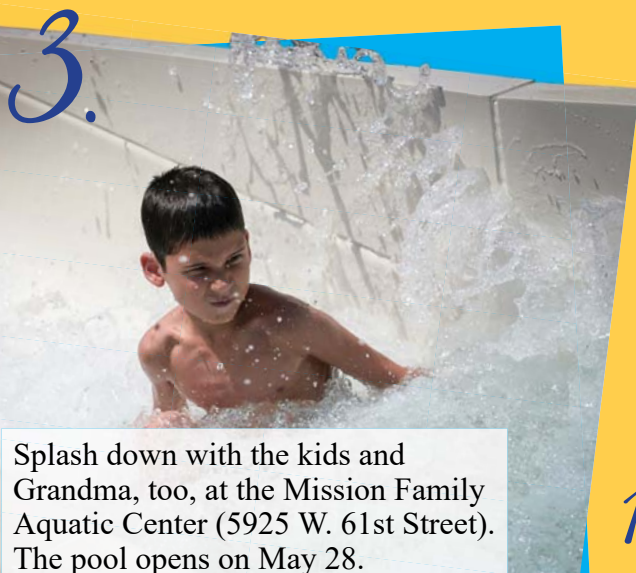
65

Great Things To Do in Mission!



1. Catch a ride on the JO and return to Mission, home sweet home.

2. Enjoy postal power. Take a walk to the Post Office to stock up on stamps or mail a package.



3. Splash down with the kids and Grandma, too, at the Mission Family Aquatic Center (5925 W. 61st Street). The pool opens on May 28.

4. Accomplish your errands in no time thanks to the pedestrian-friendly sidewalks and convenient parking on Johnson Drive.

5. Find the perfect power tools at either Hartman Hardware or Mack Hardware where everyone is helpful.

6. Stock up on fresh produce at the Mission Farm & Flower Market (Johnson Drive between Reeds and Maple) every Saturday from May 7 through Sept. 24.

7. Attend the "Holiday Lights and Festive Sights" on Dec. 2. Don't miss carriage rides, Santa, the Mayor's tree lighting and much more.

8. "Go Green" and plug-in your electric vehicle at a charging station located at Arvest Bank or Hy-Vee.

9. Catch a KC Royals, Chiefs or Sporting KC game on a big screen at one of Mission's neighborhood bars.



10. Explore the Rock Creek Trail, a 1.67-mile bike-hike trail running from Mission's eastern and western borders.

11. Drop off glass jars and bottles at the purple Ripple Glass recycling bin, conveniently-located in the Hy-Vee parking lot.

12. Celebrate summer in one of Mission's seven outdoor parks by joining friends for free food and fireworks at the Mission Summer Family Picnic on July 9 at Broadmoor Park (5701 Broadmoor St.).

13. Enjoy the convenience of the Johnson County Northeast Offices (6000 Lamar) where you can tag and title your car, truck or motorcycle.

14. Then go right down the street to the DMV to renew your driver's license!

15. Double your fitness power by walking or biking to the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center (6200 Martway) to swim, lift weights or run on the track.

16. Enjoy a meal with friends at one of Mission's more than 50 eateries. See www.missionks.org for a complete listing.



17.

Hop into spring at the annual Bunny Eggstravaganza event (watch for 2017 dates).

22.



Stand in line for a freshly grilled sausage at Werner's Specialty Foods on Saturday morning. Get there early for the Schnitzel — it will sell out!

18.

Take care of your health and your wealth by walking to a local bank to make a deposit in your account.

19.

Enjoy a play performed by the Barn Players Community Theater. Visit www.thebarnplayers.org for information.

20.

Start a soccer or softball game with friends — or cheer from the sidelines — at Waterworks Park (5814 W. 53 St.) one of Mission's seven outdoor parks.

21.

Look for great steals and deals on new and consignment clothing at shops throughout Mission.

23.

Stock up on gear from your favorite college or local professional sports team at Kansas Sampler.

24.

Get the kids out of the house on a cold winter morning for fun at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center's Indoor Playground.

25.

Read the Mission Magazine from cover to cover.



26.

Mark your calendar for the Battle of the Brisket and Kid's QUE BBQ Contests on September 16 – 17. It's a great place to get to know your neighbors.

27.

Take a walking tour of a residential neighborhood to admire the unique homes in Mission.

28.

Drop in for an impromptu tour of Mission's fire station with the kids or grandkids. Call ahead (913-262-4600) for larger groups.

29.

Grab your racket and a partner for an afternoon of tennis in Andersen Park (5960 W. 61 St.) a favorite among Mission's seven outdoor parks.

continued on page 36

continued from page 36

30. Browse the Parks & Recreation "Activity Guide" to plan some summer fun. Online version at www.missionks.org. Locate hard copies at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center and City Hall.



31. Volunteer to walk a dog or foster a pet at Unleashed Pet Rescue and Adoption.

32. Step back in time at Town Topic diner, known for its onion-grilled burgers and freshly made malts.

33. Look into the senior activities at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center like day trips, bingo, a pot luck lunch, or a fitness class.

34. Take a "hot yoga" or restorative yoga fitness class at Yoga Fix Studio.

35. Participate in the Citizen's Police Academy, Coffee with a Cop, or a station tour, all offered by the Mission Police Department.

36. Enjoy delicious coffee and camaraderie at Twisted Sisters Coffee Shop.



37. Admire the rotating artwork of the ArtsKC "Now Showing" program on display at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center.

38. Breathe a little easier knowing first class emergency veterinary services are available right here in Mission at VCA Animal Referral and Emergency Center.



39. Plan a fun get-away with Ascendas travel agency.

40. Sign up to be a "Leaf Buster" and help rake leaves for an elderly neighbor. Call City Hall at 913-676-8350 for more information.

41. Send flowers to brighten someone's day from your favorite Mission florist.

42. Keep your eyes open for new storefronts in Mission, and drop in to say hello! Your business is important to them.

43.

Volunteer with the City of Mission's Family Holiday Adoption program. Look for more information coming this fall.

44.

When the weather warms up, invite you friends for food and drinks on an outdoor patio at your favorite Mission eatery or bar.

45.

Learn salsa, cha-cha, the West Coast Swing, the waltz or the Lindy Hop at Melange Ballroom dancing. Private lessons and group dance parties available.

46.

Check out the Mission Pet Mart mural, and then go inside to admire the cute puppies and cool fish.

47.

Get up early for donuts from Fluffy Fresh or Lamar's to satisfy that sugar craving!

48.

Take a house-hunting trip and find a home to suit any stage of your life — apartment, townhouse, bungalow, ranch, senior living and everything in between!

49.

Explore several local shops with vintage or repurposed items to find a unique accent piece for your home.



50.

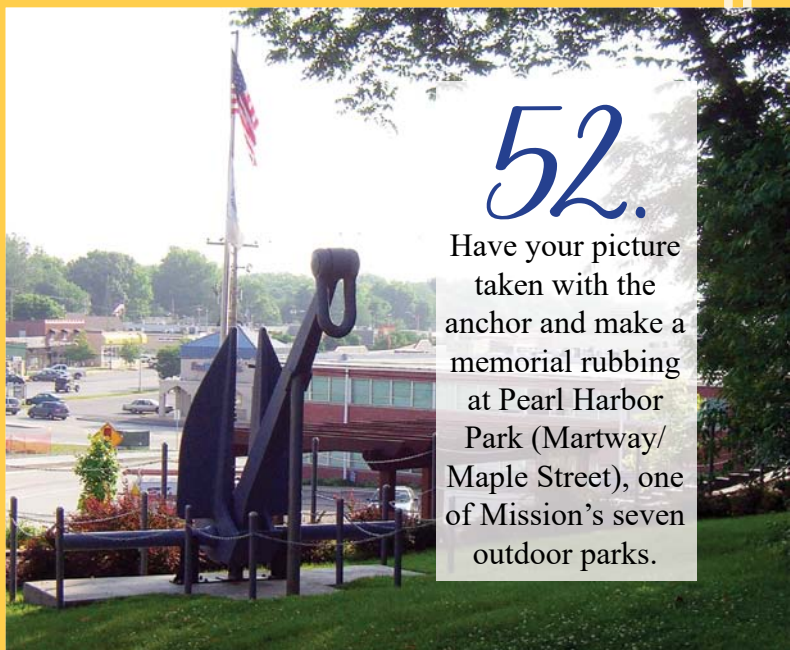
Organize a game of bocce in one of the largest of Mission's seven outdoor parks, at Mohawk Park (67th Street and Lamar Ave.)

51.

Stop and pay respects at Cross Cemetery, Mission's only cemetery, located at the corner of Johnson Drive and Lamar. (next to Goodcents)

52.

Have your picture taken with the anchor and make a memorial rubbing at Pearl Harbor Park (Martway/Maple Street), one of Mission's seven outdoor parks.



53.

Purge your closets or shop for treasures at Mission's annual citywide garage sale. (May 12-14)



continued on page 38



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54.

When it's hot, cool down with a cone from Dips & Sips or a signature flavor from Baskin Robbins.



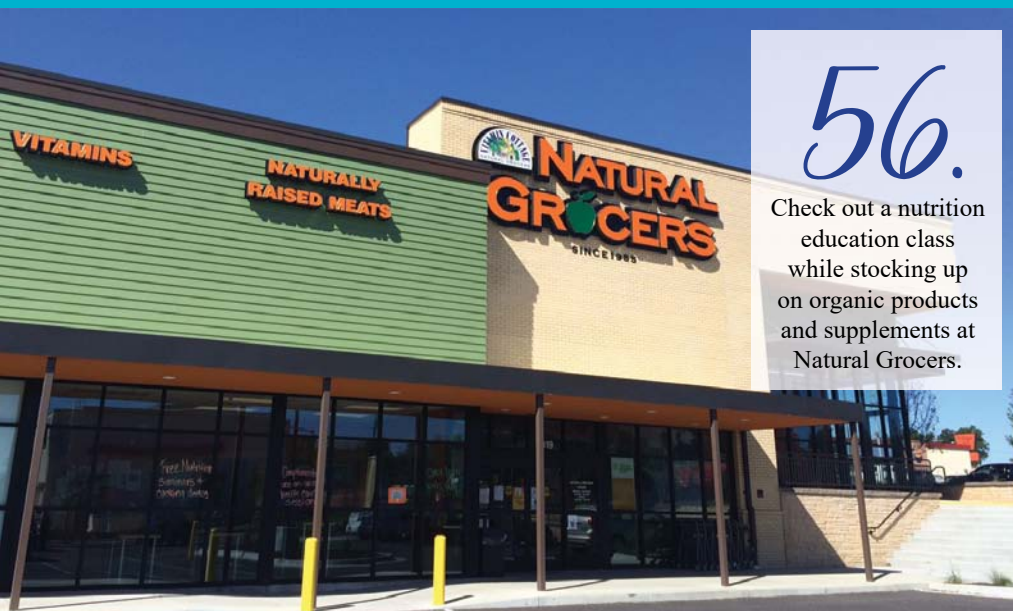
55.

Be a "Snow Angel" and lend a helping hand to a neighbor who can't clear driveways or sidewalks after a storm. Contact City Hall at 913-676-8350 for more information.



56.

Check out a nutrition education class while stocking up on organic products and supplements at Natural Grocers.



57.

Get your car cleaned at a local car wash and cruise Johnson Drive on a sunny afternoon!



58.

Call City Hall and ask how you can serve on a board or commission to connect with your City.

59.

Grow your own veggies in a community garden plot. Contact City Hall at 913-676-8350 for information.

60.

Whether you ride or not, join participants in the KC Thunder Ride on Sunday, May 29, from 8-9:30 a.m. at Hy-Vee.

61.

In honor of Mission's 65th anniversary, discover and patronize 65 Mission businesses this year!

62.

Treat yourself to a new look or a relaxing manicure and pedicure at one of more than 20 salons in Mission.

63.

Identify trees along the trail in Streamway Park (5150 Foxridge Drive), a hidden gem among Mission's seven outdoor parks.

64.

Admire the mural at City Hall depicting 32 people, places and events in the history of Mission.

65.

Get out and make a memory of your own!

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Historic Office Building Undergoes Big Renovations

Outside keeps its '50s look while inside is ready for business in the 21st century

By Linda Friedel

One of Mission's first office buildings, constructed in 1955 and known to many as "Muntzel-Keach," has undergone a major renovation. The building was named after its original owners — Robert J. Muntzel and John R. Keach. Located on the corner of Nall and Martway, the structure has been left largely intact on the outside, while the interior space has been transformed to meet business practices of the 21st Century.

"We kept the shape of the building," said Mike Kinkaid, president of The Redwood Group and owner of the property. "We also kept the building's mid-century look, because we wanted to preserve its history."

The Raydo Years

Tess and John Raydo, and Sally Keach, bought the brick building in 1974. The Raydos already owned scores of residential properties in the county. The families were acquainted and Tess was a part-time secretary for John Keach, one of the original owners, and a protégé of Sally Keach, where they worked together on the Hospitalized Veteran's Writing Project.

The Raydos decided to buy the office building after John retired from Gay Gibson clothing manufacturing. They kept the name Muntzel-

Keach and for 35 years, from 1974 to 2009, Tess and John owned and operated the building together. During that time John oversaw the day-to-day operations that included managing the grounds and maintenance while Tess took care of leases, contracts, deposits and billing.

During those years, the building housed 27 office spaces. Most of the tenants were longterm leases, which the Raydos fostered through their hands-on management approach. They offered reasonable rent, good services, a friendly atmosphere and a convenient location.

The family's involvement is what made the building so special, says Raydo and her children. When John passed away in 2009, Tess continued to manage the property until she sold it to The Redwood Group in 2014. Built with extremely durable bricks that were specially fired with iron, Tess said the structure was built to last.

"It was quite a building. The building's quality was super and it had wonderful brickwork inside and out."



Photo by Scott Fishman

Right: Roger Obrist, from left, CFO of The Redwood Group and Mike Kincaid, president, are current owners of the office building at 5920 Nall, known in Mission as the 'Muntzel-Keach' building erected in 1955. The Redwood Group purchased the building from longtime property owner Tess Raydo in 2014. Photo by Kevin Blayne

Life at 5920 Nall Today

Mike Kincaid and Roger Obrist, of 5920 Nall, LLC bought the 15,000-plus square foot building in 2014. As president and CFO of The Redwood Group, they were looking for a central location to house their growing company, a commodity sales and trading business. Kincaid and his wife have a passion for nature and her home state of California's Redwood Forest, thus the name The Redwood Group.

"This was a lucky find," said Kincaid. "Someone on our team saw it was for sale and said 'take a look.'"

The multi-story building is now headquarters for the 5-year-old company with plenty of room for growth. The Redwood Group occupies the top floor and the rest is subdivided. The freshly remodeled office building has remaining vacancies with additional office space or executive suites.

"We all love it," Obrist said. "The open feel, new updates and quality finishes makes it a place we can be proud of."

Renovations took more than a year. Short of its original interior stairs, the inside was completely gutted and the remodel included the addition of an elevator, new windows and roof, new heating, air-conditioning, plumbing and electrical systems. The top floor, once multiple offices, was transformed into a large open space for the dozen employees of The Redwood Group. The office makes a statement with its regulation size ping pong table, putting green, punching bag, video game and back-stretching machine.

Rest assured, there are productive work spaces, but you won't find cubicles here. Employees are clustered with laptops and desks like football players in a huddle, perfect for the teamwork they need, explained Kincaid. There are showers to promote fitness, a conference room for meetings and several corner offices, where Kincaid and Obrist say they rarely sit. Combining work and play is energizing, according to Kincaid.

"We want it to be a fun place to work. We wanted to create someplace welcoming — a place we can enjoy."



Kincaid appreciates the building's proximity to Mission amenities. It reminds him of Kansas City, Missouri's Brookside district with conveniently located shops within walking distance.

"We are very happy we are here," he said. "The location of this building has a neighborhood feel to it. It fits our personalities, too, and it's a casual environment. We regularly walk over for coffee at Twisted Sisters and visit many other local businesses."

Raydo, the former property owner, is pleased with the results of the renovation. To her, the building stands as a reminder of the years that she and her husband owned and managed it together. They were believers in community, even donating the land for the Pearl Harbor Memorial Park. Raydo is proud of the new changes and believes the building's future in Mission is bright.

"I think it's tremendous," said Raydo. "It's going to be a big benefit for the employees who will work there. The people in Mission are going to be quite proud of it."

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THINK GREEN®



RED WING SHOES

continues long tradition on Johnson Drive

Mission store, the first location east of the Rockies,
has been selling shoes since 1967.

BY LINDA FRIEDEL • PHOTO BY SCOTT FISHMAN

Some local businesses have helped put Mission on the map. A few, like Red Wing Shoes, have reached iconic status. Red Wing Shoes is an innovation of the 110-year-old shoe manufacturer by the same name. Owner Jim Tharp said the Mission location was the company's first franchise east of the Rockies.

"I told the Red Wing company I wanted to be the first in this area," Tharp said.

Tharp had been in the wholesale shoe business in the 1960s when he decided to talk to the president of Red Wing Manufacturing. He liked the quality of Red Wing shoes and appreciated the company's integrity.

"Red Wing wants the shoe to fit the foot — that's the big thing," Tharp said.

Red Wing was looking to expand its distribution beyond family shoe stores and wanted to open its own retail centers to showcase its line of boots for the craftsmen. Mission fit the company's expansion plans and Tharp chose Johnson Drive for its location.

"I was intrigued with the area and the street," he explained. "It was a major thoroughfare going east and west in Kansas City."

Since 1967, the Red Wing Shoes has had a presence on Johnson Drive. The store moved just east and across the street last year to its new location at 5807 Johnson Drive. Regardless of the address, Red Wing's owner said the store has always been customer focused.

Red Wing's inventory offers a large variety of purpose-built styles

for work and play including Red Wing, Irish Setter, WORX, Vasque and Red Wing Heritage in addition to custom insoles and special orders for hard-to-fit feet. The store also carries a wide range of sizes and widths. Sales associates are Certified Fit Specialists, expertly trained to get the right fit for customers, said Carrie Hopkins, who has been the store manager for 15 years.

"Our mission is to get the right fit and right footwear for their job," Hopkins said. "It's very personal."

Customers are surprised with the full-service and individual attention they receive from Red Wing in Mission. Employees help customers select the proper footwear for the job, educate them on the various shoe lines and offer free after-care amenities including oiling, laces and service. In nearly five decades in Mission the store has had only four managers. It's the combination of familiar faces and attention to detail that keeps customers coming through their doors.

"We get a lot of family members," Hopkins said. "Dads bring their sons in. It's a family tradition."

Customers drive as long as an hour to find the right safety shoe for their industry, including mechanics, railroad workers, warehouse workers, utility workers, landscapers, farmers and construction workers. Red Wing also reaches clients with its mobile shoe truck.

"In 50 years I never recalled any negative reports about the Mission store," Jim said. "Our customers always appreciated the service. Repeat business is what makes our stores go."

Above: Carrie Hopkins is the store manager of Red Wing Shoes at 5807 Johnson Drive. The shoe store, known for its customer service and sturdy work boots, is one of the oldest businesses in Mission.

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Historic farmhouse on Walmer Street is home sweet home to local couple

Nathan and Jenni Dormer enjoy 'old house' lifestyle of their vintage home.

BY LINDA FRIEDEL • PHOTOS BY KRISTIN MCCOPPIN/POND PHOTOGRAPHY

Nathan Dormer and his wife Jenni love old homes, especially the kind that creak a little.

It's one of the things that sold them on the vintage Mission house they purchased in 2013. The three-bedroom, two-story residence, built around 1930, has character, history, charm and plenty of "old house" sounds, as the owner calls them.

According to their research, Dormer, who serves on the City's Parks and Recreation Commission, and his wife are the 11th homeowners to inhabit 5320 Walmer. He believes the home may have been a kit house where pre-cut and fitted materials were shipped to the homebuyer to build.

"We like being in a place that is part of a very long historical story," Dormer said. "This house has been loved by lots of people. We like to know we're a part of that."

Nearly three years later, Dormer still recalls why they fell in love with the house. It had a big back yard with a full privacy fence for their beloved pit bull, Hatch, to run and play, plus a two-car garage. They appreciated the details such as wooden door frames, the brick exterior, hardwood floors, a wood burning fireplace, and an extra-large window in the front room with a window seat. A spiral staircase leading to a reading nook and spacious master bedroom

seemed to round out everything they were looking for.

"We could see ourselves here. The house is very cozy."

The structure was "move in" ready when the Dormers finalized paper work and closed on the house. All that was left for them to do was a little painting, some minor repairs, and refinishing the floors. The property had been well-maintained, and the Dormer's are continuing that tradition, recently adding a high efficiency furnace and air-conditioner, new water heater and energy efficient lighting.

"I like to leave things better than I found them," Dormer said. "We would like to continually update the house."

Dormer was drawn to Mission originally because of its stance on dog breed equality, as he sits on the board of directors for a local bully breed rescue. Mission is one of four cities in Johnson County that does not have breed specific legislation, which allows Hatch, a cruelty-case survivor, to live a happy, quiet life on Walmer Street, just like a former owner's bully breed did at the turn of the century.

As a former renter in Mission, Dormer was sold on the convenience and amenities Mission had to offer. Dormer said he purchased the historic home largely for its location.

"This City literally has everything," Dormer said. "It's a small town feel close to big city elements."

Nathan Dormer lives in a historic Mission home on 5320 Walmer with his wife, Jenni, and their dog Hatch. The house is more than 85 years old.





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July 1 - August 6

Are you ready for a FREE, FUN FAMILY Summer challenge? Join the Northeast Johnson County cities of Fairway, Leawood, Merriam, Mission, Prairie Village and Roeland Park in the fun! Visit each park below to complete the passport. Completed passports must be turned in by August 12 to SPJCC or submitted online by 5:00pm.

Mission

Andersen Park
5930 West 61st St

Fairway

Peterson Park
6136 Mission Rd

Roeland Park

Granada Park
5150 Granada St

Leawood

Ironwoods Park
14701 Mission Rd

Merriam

Brown Park
5040 Booker Dr

Prairie Village

Franklin Park
Roe Ave & Somerset Dr

Grand Prize: (1) 2017 Pool Membership & Super Pool Pass or \$150 parks & recreation voucher to one of the six participating cities.

Additional Prizes: (6) 2017 Super Pool Passes or \$50 parks & recreation voucher to one of the six participating cities.

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June 24-25
Andersen Park
5:00pm-8:00am

Bring your tents & sleeping bags!
\$20 for a family of 4;
\$3 for each add'l person

Swimming at MFAC, 5:00-8:00pm
Roasted Hot Dog Dinner, 6:00-7:00pm
Nature Activities
Campfire & S'mores
Outdoor Cinema, 9:15pm
Saturday Breakfast



missionks.org
Click 'Play' for more details!

Free Admission!

Mission Summer Family Picnic

Saturday, July 9 6:00pm

Broadmoor Park 5701 Broadmoor

Enjoy inflatables, games & activities for the whole family!

Free beef or turkey hot dog dinner with drinks and chips from 6:00-7:30pm

Ice cream sandwiches for dessert beginning at 7:30-while supplies last!

Consolidated Fire District #2 will cool-off the crowd, so don't forget your swimsuits!

Stay for our firework display at 9:30pm! Don't forget your lawn chairs or blankets!

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Daily Admission

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May 28 - Aug. 10, 2016
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Closing Day:
Sept. 5 2016

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Saturdays: 12:00pm-8:00pm
Sundays: 12:00pm-6:00pm

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6/17, 7/15, 8/19, 5:00-8:00pm

Pool Party for Pooches
9/6, \$5/dog per session
5:30-6:15pm or 6:30-7:15pm

Super Pool Pass

Fairway, Leawood, Merriam,
Mission, Prairie Village & Roeland Park

Add the "Super Pass" to your MFAC membership, and visit the outdoor pools of nearby pools at no extra charge! Registrants must purchase super pass from the city for which they currently live.

Single

Resident	\$25
Non-Resident	\$30

Family

Resident	\$50*
Non-Resident	\$55*

*Fee includes up to 5 family members. \$5 for each add'l person.

MISSION SUMMER CAMP

Ages K-10

June 6 - August 5, 2016

(9 - 1 week sessions)

Monday - Friday: 7:30am-5:30pm

Weekly Rates:

\$129=Residents, Mission Business & SPJCC Members

\$139 = Non-Residents



TWEEN 'N TEEN CAMP Ages 10-15

June 6 - August 5, 2016 (9 - 1 week sessions)

Monday - Friday: 7:30am-5:30pm

Weekly Rates:

\$139 = Resident, Mission Business & SPJCC Members

\$149 = Non-residents

*Additional \$25 fee/week for premium field trips (weeks 2,3,4,7,9).

Registration is OPEN!

New Parent Open House
MSC: June 1, 5:30-7:30pm
TNT: June 2, 5:30-7:30pm

Visit the Summer Camp page at www.missionks.org for enrollment information & camp forms!

Casey's

Auto Repair

Taking care of your car

5917 Beverly, Mission, KS

913-403-9500

Hours: Mon. - Fri. 7am - 6pm

5710 Johnson Dr., Mission, KS

913-403-9503

Hours: Mon. - Fri. 7:30am - 5:30pm

www.caseysautorepair.com

**Oil
Change**
(free lube)

**Check
Engine
Light**

**A/C
Service**

Tires

5917 Beverly



5710 Johnson Dr.



- **Brakes**
- **Hub match brake rotors**
(eliminating brake pulsation)
- **Repair or replace engines, transmissions & differentials**
- **Perform all factory maintenance**
- **Unlock your cars radio**
- **Repair or replace windshields**
- **Computer Diagnostics**
- **Electrical**
- **Tune-ups**
- **Work with extended warranty companies**
- **Reprogram ignition keys & remote fobs**

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BF Goodrich
Tires