

# Mission

*Your Hometown*

May 2018

## MEET

MISSION MAYOR  
RON APPLETOFT



*Mother's Day*

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So much to write about and so little space! Who is buried in that little cemetery at Johnson Drive and Lamar? What did I learn from my mother? Would I like to be the Mayor of Mission? How much history do you know about the City of Mission? Can I, as a fifth-grader, draw well enough to take the state's first-place award in an Arbor Day poster contest? Or what goes on in that building at 5825 Dearborn St.?

Just in case you don't think that's enough for one issue, there's more. Just think of the old adage "And a child shall lead them," only in this case it was 23 third-graders in Ms. Atkinson's class at Santa Fe Elementary School! These students decided to take a trip to Mohawk Park (67th and Lamar) and make a list of all the items and improvements they thought should be implemented. They also conducted a survey of surrounding neighbors to gather their thoughts about the park.

Items on their wish lists were wide ranging, including such things as a water fountain, a handicap ramp or easy access to the walking trail, rubber tire mulch, recycling bins, a water splash pad and a skateboard park. At least they were thinking big! Taking this to City Hall, the class put together a PowerPoint presentation for the City of Mission staff, complete with an emcee who — surprise, surprise — wore a tux!

I wish each and every one of you

could have been at the presentation. You would have thought these third-graders were high school students, very well educated and sincere in their proposals. Who knew these 9- and 10-year-olds could create a PowerPoint presentation? When I was in third grade, we climbed on the jungle gym, jumped rope, learned to add or just plain had a good time. In my era my friends and I would never have thought to go to City Hall to ask for something!

As the children came to Mohawk Park to view the new recycle bin — with their school plaque attached to it — the first question they all asked was, "Are we going to be famous now?" To which I quickly replied, "You are all famous in my eyes. Look what you have accomplished. Because of you, there are recycling bins in this park." How unique! For our meeting, the students walked from school to the park. As they started to leave, they all chimed in and said, "We sure wish there was a water fountain here. We are thirsty."

So, if any of our faithful readers would like to donate funds for a water fountain — cost for one fountain is \$8,625 plus installation costs — please give me a call (913-671-8564). It is not impossible to grant that wish as well.

As always, this is an exciting issue. Enjoy!

*Suzie Gibbs*



#### On the cover:

MISSION MAYOR RON APPLETOFT  
PHOTO BY CATHY DONOVAN

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# Mission

*Your Hometown*

MAY 2018

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Published by MetroMedia, Inc.  
4210 Shawnee Mission Parkway, Suite 314A  
Fairway, KS 66205  
Phone: 913-951-8425 | Suziegibbs1@gmail.com

Additional copies of Mission: Your Hometown magazine are available at participating advertisers. You can also view it on the city's website, [www.missionks.org](http://www.missionks.org). To advertise in Mission Magazine, contact Angie Riffel at 913-951-8446 or [ariffel@metromediapublishers.com](mailto:ariffel@metromediapublishers.com).

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# MISSION'S MAYOR AND A MAYOR'S MISSION

Ron Appletoft brings his life experience  
to job as new Mission Mayor

By Kris Baker

Photos by Cathy Donovan

**S**itting behind the stately mayoral desk and examining some historical documents, Ron Appletoft looks every bit the picture of a city mayor. He has been settling into this new position since he was sworn in at the beginning of the year, getting to know all the city's inner machinations. Attending meetings, reading a large quantity of city documents and getting to know new people, Mayor Appletoft has integrated himself into the heart of Mission.

"You are continually discovering new aspects of Mission," Mayor Appletoft reveals. "As Mayor, you are an ambassador for the city, so you have to be versed in all issues and be able to confidently discuss those issues."

The path to becoming the chief executive of this city was anything but a straight line for Mayor Appletoft. When he reflects on it, he remembers the challenges for a boy who was only 5 years old when he moved to the United States from Germany and didn't speak a word of English.

"It was an interesting situation to be in," Mayor Appletoft remembers. "My teachers worked really hard, so did I, and we were able to adapt."

Mayor Appletoft's mother was a German citizen and his father was an American GI. "She was a teenager growing up in Germany during World War II," Mayor Appletoft said. "This gave her a unique perspective. She saw her country suffer and I think she was grateful for new opportunities."

With his father in the military, the family moved every two years, traveling back and forth from Germany to the U.S. He was immersed in both cultures and both his German and American experiences influenced the man he became. The family finally settled in South Dakota in 1969, where Ron went to high school and played baseball.

"I was an average student," Ron said. "Then I found out that if you are on the honor roll you could get out of school for an hour during study hall. This gave me the right kind of motivation to get better grades."

Ron said that at the time he still didn't know what direction he ultimately wanted his life to take. It didn't help that he missed his college orientation to play in the state baseball tournament.

"It was a very important game at the time," he laughed.

Mayor Ron Appletoft at  
his desk in City Hall.



## SOME SOUND ADVICE

It was at a family reunion and a chance encounter with a distant relative where Mayor Appletoft received some life-changing advice.

"This man drove up in a new Cadillac, and I immediately wondered 'What does he do?' because that seemed like the way to go," Mayor Appletoft recounted. "When I finally got a chance to talk to him he gave me some great advice. Get an accounting degree; every business needs accountants and you will always find work. He was right."

Mayor Appletoft became one of the first members of his family to go to college; attending the University of South Dakota and graduating in 1977. While at college, Ron met Debbie, a "great Kansas City girl and a Jayhawk." Following her to Kansas, they married in 1978, bought a home in Countryside and have lived in Mission ever since.

"One of the questions I am frequently asked is 'How did you get involved in city government?' After moving to the City of Countryside in 1980, (a community of 133 homes) I was asked to become the treasurer of their city; serving for 15 years. After four years of attending city council meetings I filed and won a seat on their city council as well. Moving to the City of Mission in 1995 I was then asked to serve on the Mission's Planning Commission and later appointed to the Ward 4 City Council position.

"Also in 1980, I began my career at Water District #1 of Johnson County, Kansas, one of the highest rated water utilities in the country. I was employed there for 37 years with the final 12 years as the chief financial officer. At WaterOne I served for a seven member elected board whereas at the City of Mission I was a member of the governing body, which really helped me understand how a municipality functions."

"Mayors don't do it by themselves," Ron continued. "I couldn't have done this if not for my wife. She is my rock, supporting me and taking care of everything at home so well, allowing me to do this."

The Appletofts have two sons, Patrick and Quinn. Quinn attends Southwest Baptist University; Patrick has special needs and lives with the Appletofts.

Over the years, family has guided much of what Mayor Appletoft has wanted to do.

Whether it's small rural towns, like the ones where he was raised, or a small urban town such as Mission, Mayor Appletoft believes city government has a direct impact on residents.

"Every time I leave the house, go to the coffee shop or grocery store or bank, people know who I am, and they want to know

**"The mayor should be a consensus builder, someone who can see both sides, bring people together and find some common ground."**

**- Ron Appletoft, Mayor of Mission**

what's going on with something in the city," Mayor Appletoft offered. "I like that level of accountability. If you are doing things for the right reasons you should want to be accountable. If there is a pothole on Johnson Drive, it doesn't matter your politics, it only matters that you fix the pothole. It's not about politics; it's about neighbors."

Mayor Appletoft has a positive outlook on several new projects coming to the area. He knows these new developments are the result of years of work and dedication from many people and wants to make sure to credit his predecessors.

"Mission has a very bright and exciting future," Mayor Appletoft explained. "We are trending upward due to all the hard work by the previous mayors of Mission."

**Government Day with 'Mayor Ron' at Rushton Elementary School.**







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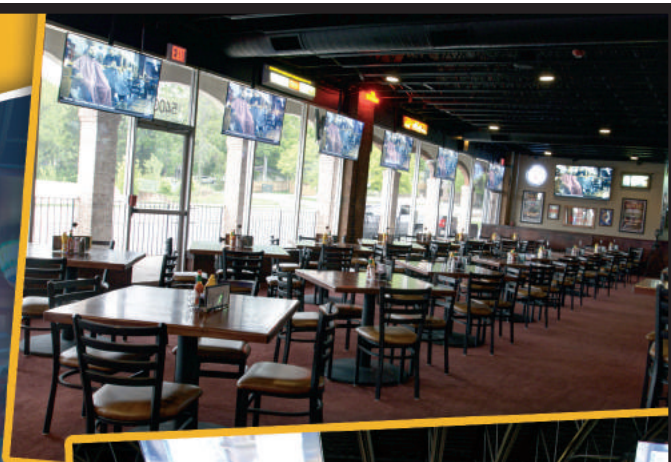
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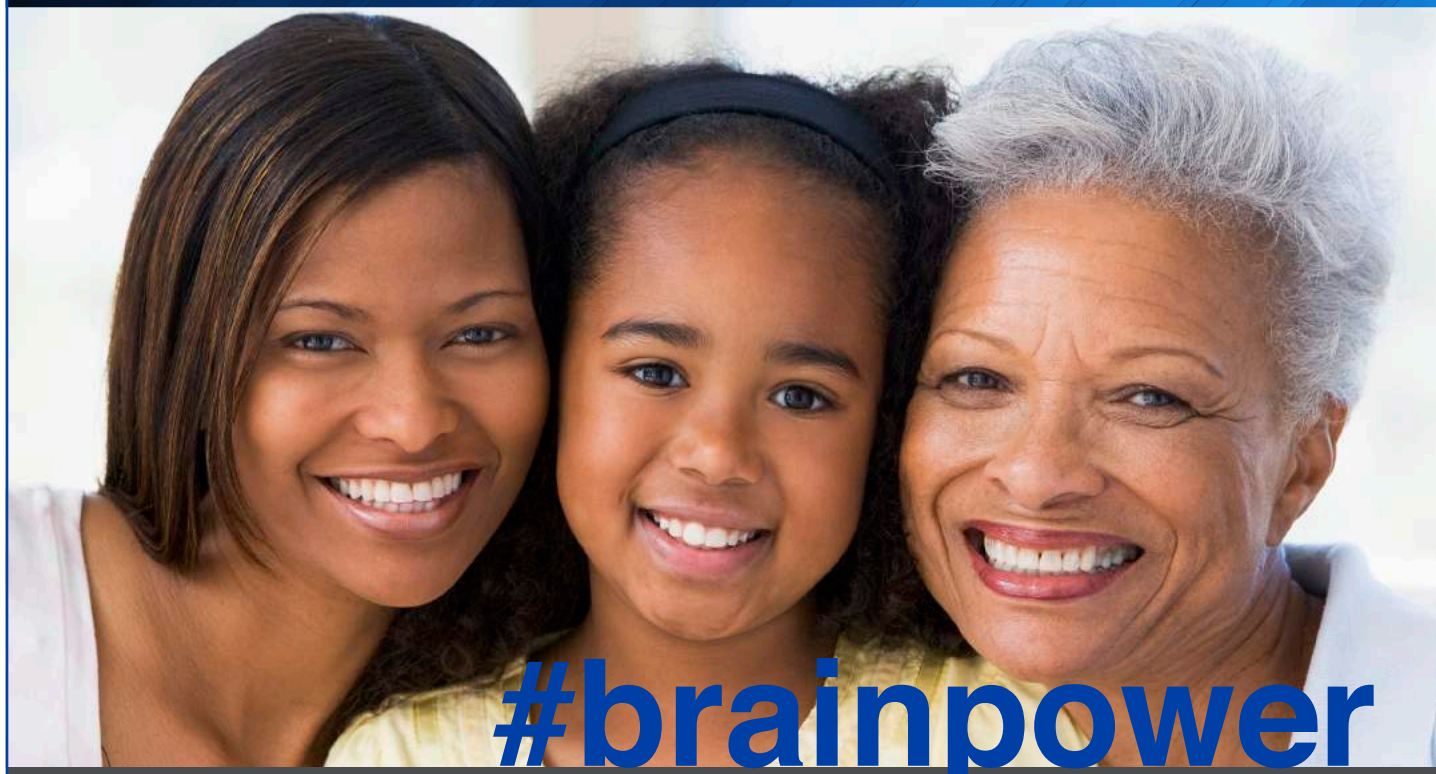
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# FAMILY FEATURES PRODUCES ORIGINAL CONTENT FOR NEWSPAPERS & WEBSITES ACROSS THE COUNTRY

BY KRIS BAKER | PHOTOS BY CATHY DONOVAN



Family Features executives Sara Fowler, managing editor, President Brian Agnes, and Emily Angold, marketing manager, stand in front of a bulletin board that showcases many of the features it has produced this year.

It's press day and the deadline's approaching. Headlines for the small local paper are in place. Stories cover local government, last night's high school basketball game and a ribbon-cutting for a new business. However, the scariest thing for any editor looms: a blank page. What kind of content can be found quickly that would fill the page and be beneficial to readers? This is where Family Features can save the day.

Mission-based business Family Features works with 4,000 newspaper, magazine and website editors all over the United States, providing free editorial content in the areas of food/

recipes, lifestyle and home and garden, doing this in conjunction with national brands, associations and government agencies.

"As some media outlets around the country continue to shrink and do more with fewer employees, it can be difficult for them to fill their needs," offered Brian Agnes, president of Family Features.

"When they need something informative, something timely or something fun, we can help."

The production team that generates this consists of journalists and graphic artists who create articles and provide high-quality



photographs to editors. This service is free to the media outlets, whose revenue is generated from their partnerships with national companies such as McCormick Spices, California Table Grapes, Macy's, KitchenAid, Shriners Hospitals for Kids, PetSmart, Clorox, SoftSoap and Uncle Ben's Rice.

"These companies have new products or information they want to promote; we take their core information and create articles that are enjoyable for the readers," said Sara Fowler, managing editor for Family Features. "To stay relevant, we can tailor their information to Mother's Day, Father's Day, summer vacations, anything."

Family Features started in 1974 and for the first 30 years they only created full-page feature articles for food and beverage companies. As their impact grew they added other companies that specialized in home improvement, lawn and garden, health, finance, pets and other lifestyle-related products and services.

"We make our clients look good, and that makes us look good," explained Cindy Long, media relations manager for Family Features and a Mission resident since 2008. "With food clients we try to have a focus on healthy eating, as well."

Brian estimates they have worked with over 1,000 clients, sending them information they would like to disseminate to the public.

"We tell our clients this is an effective, credible and expedient way to get their information to millions of consumers through local media outlets."

In addition to working with the national brands, this is one small business helping other small businesses. Every month, Family Features produces dozens of articles and features that are then used by mostly small, local newspapers and other news outlets. All this work is done in the unsuspecting building located at 5825 Dearborn Street. Family Features' majority owner, Dianne Hogerty, purchased the building in 2000, totally renovating it and in 2001 Family Features moved in. The offices can accommodate up to 28 employees.

To keep pace with online publishing, Family Features has launched [www.culinary.net](http://www.culinary.net) and [www.elivingtoday.com](http://www.elivingtoday.com), which deliver food and lifestyle content, information and services to consumers, media and marketers. Inside their Mission offices they also produce one-minute recipe videos for use on their subscribers' websites.

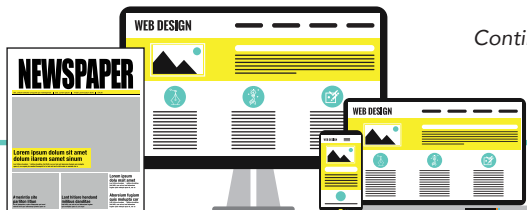
Taking up worthy causes has become a priority for Family Features, represented by the Family Features Cause Committee. The committee has created pro bono articles for Alzheimer's research, cancer research, childhood diseases, charities, food banks and more. Looking for good causes locally, the committee has worked on projects in Mission including working at the Mission Community Garden and assisting Unleashed Pet Rescue and Adoption (see story on next page).

"We want to be very supportive of the local community; the Cause Committee has done some excellent work," Brian said.

Emily Angold, Family Features marketing manager and chair of the cause committee, noted that the company has a powerful reach, with outlets in every state, making it easy for their pro bono work to have an effect.

"We have a lot of messages to present to an audience, but the most important ones are the ones that make their lives better," she emphasized.

*Continued on page 14*



## Sweet WAYS TO WELCOME WARMER DAYS



(Family Features) Warmer, longer days are made for quality time with friends and family. There's no better way to cap off an afternoon in the sun than a good meal followed by a great dessert. Plan to end your next gathering on a sweet note with a fruity dessert to conclude a day spent with loved ones.

Fruity treats are hard to resist, especially when paired with tasty, complementary flavors and textures. If you're looking for a treat that travels a bit off the beaten path, this pie may be just the answer. A crushed pretzel crust and creamy peanut butter filling provide a salty, savory background for plump, sweet strawberries.

When you make fruit the star of the dessert, there's no question you need top-quality ingredients. This dessert features Lucky Leaf Fruit Fillings, which are made from fresh fruit, contain no high-fructose corn syrup and are GMO-free, for a delicious dessert every time. With a variety of flavors to choose from, including apple, blueberry, cherry, peach and strawberry, there are plenty of convenient, versatile dessert options for any occasion.

Find more tasty treats for entertaining and beyond at [luckyleaf.com](http://luckyleaf.com).

Below is an example of a recipe from Family Features.

### STRAWBERRY PEANUT BUTTER PIE

- 1 1/4 CUPS CRUSHED PRETZELS
- 1/4 CUP GRANULATED SUGAR
- 1/2 CUP BUTTER, MELTED
- 1 CUP CREAMY PEANUT BUTTER
- 1 PACKAGE (8 OUNCES) CREAM CHEESE
- 1/2 CUP POWDERED SUGAR
- 1 1/2 CUPS FROZEN WHIPPED DESSERT TOPPING, THAWED
- 1 CAN (21 OUNCES) LUCKY LEAF PREMIUM STRAWBERRY FRUIT FILLING & TOPPING
- Combine pretzels and granulated sugar, then stir in butter. Press crumb mixture onto bottom and sides of 10-inch pie plate. Cover and chill.
- With electric mixer on medium speed, beat together peanut butter, cream cheese and powdered sugar. Fold in whipped dessert topping.
- Spoon 1/2 cup pie filling into crust-lined pie plate. Carefully spread peanut butter filling over top.
- Top with remaining pie filling. Cover and chill 2 hours before serving.

# FAMILY FEATURES MAKES UNLEASHED ITS MISSION



Family Features Editorial Syndicate might touch many newspapers, magazines and websites nationally as the company creates and distributes syndicated food and lifestyle content, but its employees chose to touch their hometown animal shelter, Unleashed Pet Rescue, for their quarterly "cause" project. The Family Features Cause Committee, consisting of eight employees, meets and plans a

quarterly activity for the company. Because animal lovers are abundant among the company's 20 employees, the committee chose to support Unleashed Pet Rescue, a local pet adoption agency located at 5918 Broadmoor Street in Mission. Unleashed is a licensed, nonprofit animal shelter that works to save the lives of homeless pets. One hundred percent of the shelter's funding comes from donations.

During a two-week period, Family Features employees collected items for Unleashed such as bleach, dog crates, blankets, towels, collars, toys, treats, laundry detergent, cleaning supplies and T-shirts. Every time an employee contributed an item to the Unleashed list of requested items, they were given a raffle ticket. Then the company had a drawing for the two gift cards and a Scentsy warmer. The company paid for the gift cards and one of our employees donated the warmer for the drawing.

On the final day of the drive, the committee held a celebratory breakfast where employees took part in one final project for Unleashed. They took donated T-shirts, ripped them into strips and then braided them into 100 dog tug-toys to donate to the facility.

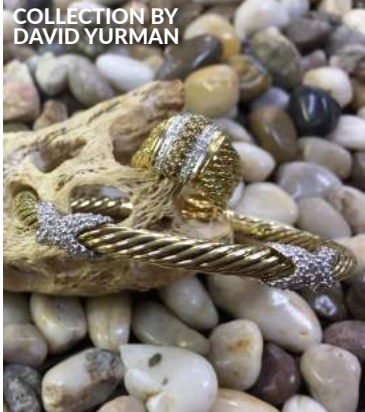


Unleashed employees Amy Sweeten (from left) and Yasmine Perez, Family Features employee Robin Brannin, Unleashed employee Tracy Kress, Family Features employee Viveca Phelps and Trinity, adopted by Viveca's family.

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# M. CITY OF MISSION NEWSLETTER



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### CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Third Wednesday every month, 7 p.m.

### COUNCIL WORK SESSIONS

Fourth Wednesday every month, 7 p.m.

All meetings are open to the public.

## GOVERNING BODY

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# MISSION MARKET MOVING TO THURSDAY EVENINGS

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- Swing by after work and get a jump on your weekend shopping.
- Buy what you need for a fresh and local dinner at home.
- Let us take care of dinner with food trucks each week.
- Or, come by later for a summer evening out with the family, the dog or just you in your comfy clothes!

We'll have live music and the market you love, just at a new date and time.

For anyone interested in being a vendor, volunteer, musician or sponsor, please contact Emily Randel at [market@missionks.org](mailto:market@missionks.org) or 913-676-8368.



# THURSDAY IS THE NEW SATURDAY

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JOHNSON DRIVE, WEST OF NALL**  
FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO BECOME A  
VENDOR, VISIT [MISSIONKS.ORG/MARKET](http://MISSIONKS.ORG/MARKET)

## THE MAYOR'S CORNER

### **Q: The assessed value of my property increased significantly this year. Is Mission planning to lower the mill levy to reduce my property taxes?**

As your elected representatives, the City Council and I know the dramatic increases in assessed valuation that many homeowners received from the Johnson County Appraiser have raised questions and concerns. Creating an annual budget and establishing the mill levy can be a complicated process as the City seeks to deliver the programs and services residents desire in the most cost effective way. Reductions in the mill levy are possible, but may result in reductions to levels of service. The relationship between assessed valuation, the mill levy, and the property tax lid requires the Council to take a bigger picture view when developing the budget each year.

Although the 2018 valuations are high, if you consider longer term trends in assessed valuation, Mission actually saw declining property values from 2008 to 2013. In fact, in 2017, Mission's overall property values had just returned to 2007 levels. The total increase in the City's property values between 2007 and the 2018 estimates is 9%. The period of decline was generally unprecedented in Johnson County's history, and cities were expected to continue delivering quality programs and services with shrinking property tax revenues.

It is also important to remember that effective January 1, 2017, the City's ability to increase the mill levy was limited by a property tax lid imposed by the Kansas Legislature. Generally, the City may only capture revenue growth that does not exceed a rolling 5-year CPI average. If increases in assessed valuation results in higher property tax revenues, the mills which generate the additional funds are subject to a public vote, even if the City simply wishes to maintain an existing mill levy. Under a property tax lid, the City is unlikely to benefit significantly from large increases in assessed valuation.

Tax relief through a reduction in the mill levy isn't likely to be a solution which benefits our community. To learn more about the City's budget and to help the Council shape budget and spending priorities, I would encourage you to attend the budget meetings scheduled throughout the spring and summer. A complete listing of the meetings is included on page N3.



Photo provided by  
the Shawnee Mission Post.

If you have a question you'd like the Mayor to respond to, please forward your name, contact information and question to City Clerk Martha Sumrall at [msumrall@missionks.org](mailto:msumrall@missionks.org) or by calling 913-676-8350.

## ADOPT A STREET

Are you interested in helping to keep Mission beautiful and welcoming for our residents and visitors? The City of Mission recently received a "Think Green" grant from Waste Management. This is funding our new Adopt-A-Street program, providing opportunities for residents and civic organizations to adopt a section of our City's streets and pick up litter in the public right-of-way on a regular basis. Clubs, churches, organizations and groups are encouraged to apply. To find out how you or your group can get involved, contact Neighborhood Services at 913-676-8360, or visit [missionks.org/neighborhoodservices](http://missionks.org/neighborhoodservices).

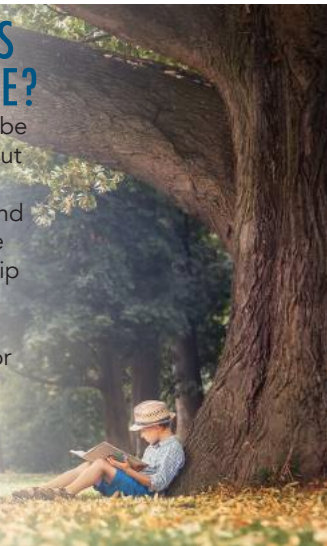


## DO YOU HAVE MISSION'S 2018 CHAMPIONSHIP TREE?

There are so many reasons a tree may be special to you, and we want to know about it!

The City of Mission Parks, Recreation and Tree Commission invites you to nominate your special tree to be our "Championship Tree." Nomination forms can be found on the City's website, or picked up at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center or City Hall.

For additional information, contact Parks & Recreation Director Christy Humerickhouse at [chumerickhouse@missionks.org](mailto:chumerickhouse@missionks.org) or 913-676-8210.



## FRIENDS OF MISSION DOG PARK



It's not too late to join the newly formed Friends of Mission Dog Park group. These volunteers are working to secure private funding for an off-leash dog park, recommend possible locations and develop operating guidelines.

### **Your help and input is needed!**

For additional information on meeting dates and locations, please contact Parks & Recreation Director Christy Humerickhouse at [chumerickhouse@missionks.org](mailto:chumerickhouse@missionks.org) or 913-722-8210.





Mayor Ron Appletoft, members of Mission's Parks, Recreation and Tree Commission and representatives from Rushton Elementary School recently celebrated the winners of the Annual Arbor Day Poster Contest hosted for all 5th Grade students. For more information on Mission's statewide winner see page 32.

## 2019 BUDGET PROCESS UNDERWAY

The Mayor and City Council welcome citizen input and feedback during development of the City's annual budget. The 2019 Budget Process begins in earnest in May, and a tentative listing of meeting dates is included below:

**MAY 2**

Review 2017 Audit and 2019 Budget Priorities

**MAY 30**

Community Conversation: Budget Priorities, Challenges and Opportunities

**JUNE 6**

Review General Fund Budget and Supplemental Program Requests

**JUNE 27**

Capital Improvement Program (Streets, Stormwater, Parks)

**JULY 25**

Community Dialogue on 2019 Budget

**AUGUST 1**

Public Hearing and Final Review of 2019 Budget

**AUGUST 15**

2019 Budget Adoption

All meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. and will be held at Mission City Hall, 6090 Woodson. Updates or changes to the schedule will be posted online at [www.missionks.org](http://www.missionks.org). Please contact Assistant City Administrator Brian Scott with questions: [bscott@missionks.org](mailto:bscott@missionks.org) or 913-676-8353.

## CODE ENFORCEMENT 101

There is a property with overgrown grass and in disrepair in my neighborhood. What happens when I call City Hall to complain?

Neighborhood Services Officers work with residents on a wide variety of code-compliance issues throughout the City to ensure properties are well maintained.

Below is a brief outline of the code enforcement process:

- Staff receives a complaint or initiates one while conducting routine neighborhood inspections.
- A "courtesy notice" is either posted on the door of the residence or mailed detailing the violation, what needs to be corrected and a reinspection date.
- Staff conducts a second inspection. The case is then either closed or legal certified notice to the owner/occupant is issued.
- If noncompliance continues, a citation may be issued to appear in Municipal Court or the violation may be abated by the City with the cost placed on the owner's property tax bill.



If you have questions or would like to report an issue, please contact Neighborhood Services at 913-676-8360.



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**THURSDAY, JULY 19**

...

**THURSDAY, SEPT 20**











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**clink.** (cheers!)

**drink.** (ahhhhh)

**think.** (hmmm, recycle?)

**shrink.** (your eco footprint)



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# Celebrating MOTHERS

How many times have you heard "If you don't have anything nice to say don't say anything at all"? What about "If all your friends jumped off a bridge, would you do it?"

There is nothing like the life lessons our mothers, or other

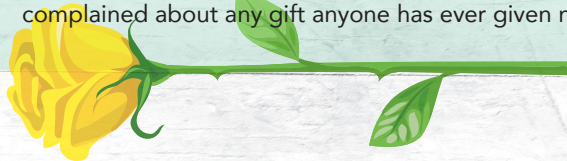
female role models, hand down to us. As we celebrate Mother's Day in May, we asked some Mission residents and business owners to tell us what they learned from their mothers, who they hold dear, to their hearts today.



• RAY HANF •

The apple didn't fall very far from the tree for Janet Hanf when it came to her son, Ray Hanf, owner of Mission Fresh Fashion, a unique fashion store which at one time sold fresh produce. Ray still takes his mother to the grocery store, runs her errands and carries around some lasting advice his mother gave him over 40 years ago.

"When I was in the second grade at St. Benedict's Elementary School we had a gift exchange; I received a coloring book. A friend received a pair of gloves. We traded gifts. I went home and told my mother of this trade. To my surprise she told me, 'The person that gave you that coloring book was thinking of you when they got you that gift. You should never have traded that gift.' The lesson learned was I have never complained about any gift anyone has ever given me since."



When Lori Reynolds got a job at Hy-Vee in Mission, her co-workers began calling her "Little Celia," after her mother Celia Dalton, a sign specialist and longtime Mission Hy-Vee employee. She didn't mind, as it reminded her how her mother's words set her on this path.

"My mother taught me to never give up on your dreams. I was going to school to be a nurse and I realized that is not what I wanted to do. I thought about her advice. My dream was to work with flowers, so I followed my dream and now I am a floral manager with Hy-Vee. She also taught me to stand up for what is right, not what is popular."



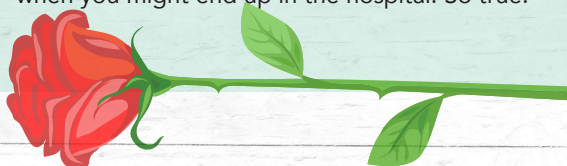
• LORI REYNOLDS •



• MARIA ROMERO •

Sometimes the smallest bits of advice take on larger meaning as we get older. Maria Romero currently works as a nurse at Shawnee Mission Medical Center, the same hospital where her mother Aurora worked before she retired. Following in her mother's footsteps has helped Maria understand the importance of something her mother told her.

"Now I get it. She told me to always have clean underwear on; you never know when you might end up in the hospital. So true."





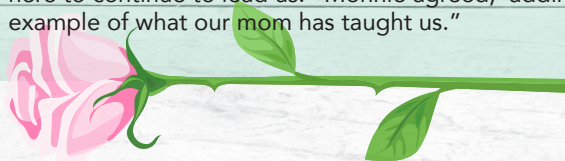
# WORDS OF WISDOM FROM THE VERY IMPORTANT WOMEN IN OUR LIVES



• BONNIE BUI AND MONNIE HARTLE •

Born in Vietnam, Tam Huynh moved to the United States where she and her husband opened Fire Wok Chinese Restaurant in Mission in 1985. Their two daughters, Bonnie Bui and Monnie Hartle, started working in the restaurant as teenagers, both now managing the restaurant for their mother. Bonnie said their mother's upbringing in another country meant she passed down certain expectations.

"Mom has taught us an amazing work ethic. As the matriarch of our family, she lives by example and drives us to expect the same dedication from ourselves. Although she is a little slower now that she is 78, she continues to work by our side at the restaurant. We don't know if we will ever live our lives to her caliber, but we are lucky to have her here to continue to lead us." Monnie agreed, adding "Unconditional love is another example of what our mom has taught us."



Beverly Bearde' handed the hair brush off to her son, Michael Bearde', when he took over the family business, BEARDE' Salon. The son of a hair stylist, he has kept his mom's unique style while adapting the business to today's environment. He has learned about life and business from his mother, remembering her advice.

"My mother taught me the art and science of hair as well as how to run a successful commercial business with passion. Working with hair is a gift, and after people leave here they feel uplifted and ready for whatever they encounter."



• MICHAEL BEARDE' •



• KELSEY GIBBS •

Suzie and Jack Gibbs became guardians of their granddaughter, Kelsey, when she was just 11 years old.

"What haven't I learned from Grandma? When I moved in, I didn't even know the basic things people learn as children. But on top of all of those things, she's taught me how to be proud of myself, and look forward to the future. Before I came to live with her, I didn't know what college was. Today I'm ready to go out into the world and do something great! And I am excited to see what life wisdoms I will discover, which she instilled in me, as an adult that I don't yet realize I have learned!"





# Mission Bulletin Board

THE MISSION PROJECT  
HOSTS

## Annual Gala



The 11th Annual Run for the  
Roses Kentucky Derby Gala  
will be held at the

**GRAND STREET PLAZA  
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KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI  
MAY 5**

The gala benefits The Mission Project for adults with developmental disabilities. The event features food, drinks, betting, silent and live auctions, big screen view of the race, amazing hats and Derby fashion. Proceeds support life skills, health and transportation programs for Mission Project participants. Sponsorships available. For more information visit [www.derbygala.org](http://www.derbygala.org).

UPCOMING  
MISSION CITY COUNCIL  
MEETINGS

7 P.M. ON  
MAY 16 AND JUNE 20  
AT CITY HALL



happy  
Retirement

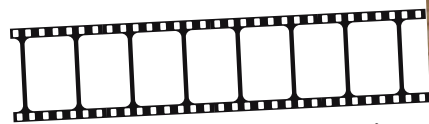


We tip our hats

Members of the Mission Magazine committee are saying goodbye and good luck to Bill McCrea, who is retiring from his volunteer work with the magazine.

Mr. Bill, as we call him, has served on the magazine committee since its inception in 2009 and served the City of Mission in a variety of volunteer capacities for 14 years. His hard work and dedication will be missed!

GOT CAMERAS?



Do you rely on your phone instead of your camera to take pics? If you have a working 35mm film camera you no longer use, Shawnee Mission North journalism students would love to have it. Cameras must use film and have manual settings. Sorry, they can't use point and shoot cameras. To donate, or to check whether your camera can be helpful to SMN students, contact Juliet Miller-Martin at [JulietMiller-Martin@smsd.org](mailto:JulietMiller-Martin@smsd.org) or call 913-993-6900.





## Happy Anniversary

Still as fresh as the day they opened, Mission Fresh Fashion, which started as Mission Fresh Produce in May 1998, will celebrate 20 years in business this June. From selling produce in the beginning to offering unique fashion today, Mission Fresh Fashion has always been popping with new ideas for retail. Here's to another 20 years of fresh success.



## BEST IN CLASS

The Welstone at Mission Crossing senior living community has been recognized with the 2018 Best in Class Customer Service award by Pinnacle Quality Insight.

Pinnacle conducts resident satisfaction surveys on a monthly basis at more than 2,500 communities across the United States and Canada, and The Welstone ranks in the top 15 percent across a full-year period! And to think the community is only two years old!



## BENEFIT FOR BRAIN HEALTH

Care Haven Homes is hosting a benefit for KU Alzheimer's Disease Center at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center on June 5 from 4 to 6 p.m. Visitors will have the opportunity to meet KU ADC staff, learn about current research and how KU ADC helps families manage diagnosis and treatment.

Mediterranean appetizers will be served, along with hints on hosting a brain healthy soiree. While there, enter the 50/50 raffle to snap up an auction item.

For more information contact Courtney Goin, community liaison for Care Haven Homes, at 913-643-0111.



## Did you know?

BEARDE' Salon is proud to be a Green Circle Certified Sustainable salon: 955,011 pounds of salon waste was diverted from landfill spaces and water streams by GCS members across Canada and the United States in 2017.

BEARDE' Salon has recycled 225 pounds this year alone including aluminum, plastics, hair and the world's first sample of biocomposite plastic, made using hair fiber and other recyclables.





Joseph Cross (left) and Gordon Cross  
at Cross Cemetery.

# Buried History

Cross Cemetery rests at the northeast corner of Johnson Drive and Lamar Avenue

By Kris Baker | Photo by Cathy Donovan

Mission residents can find almost anything on Johnson Drive: stores, restaurants, service shops ... even a cemetery. You may have driven by the stone memorial there and not even realized this was the final resting place of several members of one of the first families that settled in Mission.

Cross Cemetery sits at one of the busiest intersections in Mission, the northeast corner of Johnson Drive and Lamar Avenue, just east of Goodcents Deli Fresh Subs. Today, all that is visible of the original cemetery is two headstones and a granite marker that states "Dedicated to the Pioneers of this Community," backed by a wrought-iron fence.

There is somewhat of a mystery surrounding the history of the graves. According to the headstones, those buried in this section of the cemetery are Washington Cross and his wife Nancy Cross. Washington is thought to have been the first person interred there, buried in 1872, and Nancy in 1886. However, this information is disputed by some members of the Cross family who believe Franklin Cross is actually buried there.

Washington Cross is the great-grandfather of Gordon Cross. Gordon hopes that memorials like the cemetery on Johnson Drive help to keep the Cross name remembered for their part in the history of Mission.

"Growing up a Cross, it meant a lot to us," Gordon revealed. "The history of Mission is tied to the Cross name."

Washington Cross was born in Virginia in 1809 and came to Kansas in the fall of 1857, settling near the Shawnee Indian Mission. He had seven children — Benjamin, James, Perry, George, Harriet, Sarah and Angemima. After Washington died, his sons — the Cross brothers — entered a land pact. Eventually, the farm land the family bought, which had originally been sold by Native Americans, grew to encompass 540 acres. The boundaries for the land snaked around, including going north from 63rd Street on Nall to 53rd Street then west to Metcalf, south to 63rd and from there east again to Nall. The Cross family also became extensively engaged with the dealing and breeding of cattle.

Joseph Cross, son of Gordon, has always loved studying history and wants to share his family's place in the story of Mission.

"I would go to the library, but there was no book on Mission, so I thought I would write one," Joseph said. "I am working on a book about the history of Mission and the Cross family. I'm proud of my family heritage; it's an important part of our community's history, however the full story has never been told."



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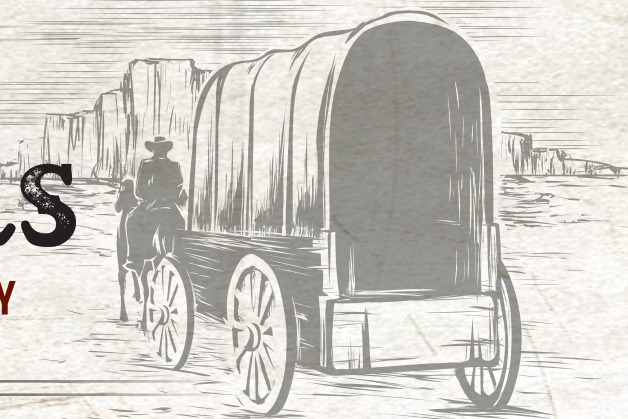




# WALKING THE PIONEERS' TRAILS

MISSION'S STREETS ARE FILLED WITH HISTORY

By Kris Baker | Photos by Cathy Donovan



**W**andering through the avenues of Mission, you can find history on every corner. This is why Mission Historian Frank Bruce is assembling a team of Mission experts to convene and discuss ways to share the rich local history. There have even been discussions of making a movie or conducting a Mission History Walk. The tour would take participants along Johnson Drive, retracing the steps the early settlers of the area walked.

But before we get to that ... did you know Mission has an official historian? It's a position the city created earlier this year for Frank.

"Mission needs to collect

and record as much history as possible because we have a unique story here," he said. "Overland Park and Olathe sprang up first and the City of Mission was late to the party. We had some of the earliest settlers, but Mission itself was built rather after the fact. Of course, once it was built up, it became an important crossroads for people living here."

Frank said he always had a good mind for dates, and along with his large collection of photos, maps and other documents, the job of historian became a natural fit. Frank, born in 1938, hopes to create a snapshot of Mission in the '30s and '40s.

Frank has passed down his love of Mission's history to his daughter, Deborah Rushing, who is working on a website called "I grew up in Mission."

"History is relative and it's always changing," Frank opined. "It means different things to different people. You must go back to it to learn, and when you can share it with others, it becomes so exciting."

Frank Bruce



## THE JOHN MORROW PHARMACY

The first drugstore to operate in Mission, John Morrow's store (first located at 5627 Johnson Drive, then 5736 Johnson Drive), was also one of the first five charter businesses in Mission and the one that stayed in operation the longest. However, the business was founded on a spur of the moment decision. Morrow had been working with various drug firms since graduating from the University of Oklahoma when he came to visit his uncle in Shawnee. His uncle took him on car ride along 50 Highway (now Johnson Drive) when they passed a newly built building.

"Let's stop here. It looks as if it might be a good place to be in the drug business," Morrow said.

Morrow Pharmacy opened in the fall of 1928, surviving through a lean first few years during the Great Depression. The most popular

part of the store, and what helped keep it going, was the soda fountain.

"I worked as a soda jerk as a kid. My friends would come there to hang out and buy whatever they could afford," remembered Louis Morrow, John's son. "We grew up as the city did."

An important development came in the 1940s when Morrow Pharmacy began to house the ticket office for the Union Pacific Bus Line. This made the drugstore a hub of transportation for the area.

"We lasted through the worst fire in Mission history in 1940, and then enjoyed success as the city grew in the '50s. The pharmacy was a big part of the city," Louis remembered. He said he was excited to be a part of promoting the proposed Mission Walking Tour.

"When I was a kid, my best friend showed me the swales in the ground behind our store, left there by the wagon trains."

Louis has been trying to follow those trails of history ever since.





# THEN

AND

# NOW

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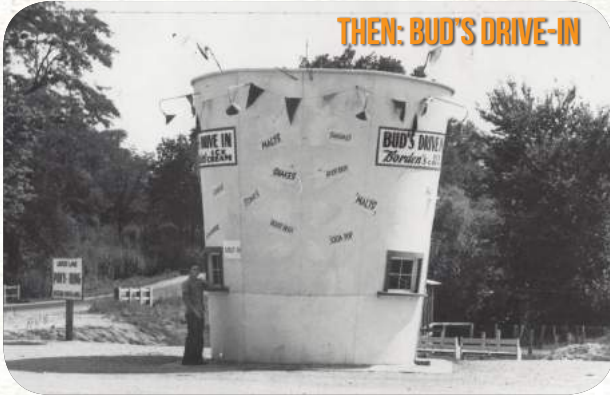


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# A TREE Grows AT RUSHTON

## ELEMENTARY STUDENT'S ARBOR DAY POSTER SELECTED AS STATE CHAMPION

BY KRIS BAKER | PHOTOS BY CATHY DONOVAN



**C**limbing a tree, swinging from its branches or reading a book under its shade — there is a bevy of ways young people receive enjoyment from trees.

Mission resident and Rushton Elementary School fifth-grader Affan Ansari captured this idea with his award-winning Arbor Day poster, drawn to reflect the theme “Kansas Trees are Terrific ... And Energy Wise!” Affan’s poster was selected state champion

in a statewide poster competition hosted annually by the Kansas Forest Service. More than 1,100 posters were submitted statewide; the competition is open to public, private and home-schooled fifth-graders across the state.

When he heard he had won, Affan, who wants to be a cardiologist when he grows up, had a strong reaction.

“I went into an excited state,” Affan said as he smiled. “So many people entered, so I didn’t think I would win. My folks thought it was amazing, and everyone at my school was cheering me on.”

**“PEOPLE WILL NEED TO SUPPORT TREES BECAUSE THEY SUPPORT US,”  
- AFFAN ANSARI**

Affan created his poster, which depicts a tree in a field holding a mirror, using crayons for the grass, colored pencils for the inside of the mirror and markers for the rest. He estimates it took him three days to complete.

“My teacher wanted something unique, a poster that would stand out,” Affan remembered. “The mirror is broken because of deforestation.”

Ben Peters, Affan’s teacher, assigned the project to his class, which had been studying the importance of trees to our world.

“When I saw his poster, I thought he had a good chance to win,” Ben said.

The 44 fifth-grade students at Rushton Elementary School completed lessons and hands-on activities that teach the multiple benefits of public trees, how to identify the economic, environmental and social benefits of trees, calculate values for those benefits and how to identify and measure trees. The poster competition is just one part of this important curriculum.

“People will need to support trees because they support us,” Affan offered as advice he learned through this class project.

Mission’s Parks, Recreation and Tree Commission sponsors the annual poster contest at Rushton. Posters are collected from the school and displayed at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center for a “public voting” period, with the top winners submitted to the state. Judging starts at the district level, where district winners advance to the statewide competition. Mission has had many district winners in past years, but this is the city’s first state champion.

On Friday, March 23, Affan was recognized at his school with the planting of two trees, a Brandywine Maple donated by the Kansas Nursery and Landscape Association, and a Wildfire Black Gum donated by the Kansas Forest Service. He was also recognized at the statewide Tree City USA event in Lawrence. Last but not least, on April 21 he was the guest of the governor, and a tree has been planted in his name on the capitol grounds in Topeka.

Affan said he cares a lot about the environment and respects trees’ ability to adapt to their environment. He believes this is something that people could emulate.

“I would tell people you might not always get along with everyone you go to school with, or everyone you meet, but that doesn’t matter,” Affan said. “The only thing you can do is to learn to work together to be successful.”





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RUSHTON ELEMENTARY







Ms. Atkinson's third-grade class includes Dylan Rolf (front row, from left) and Claudia Estrella; Olivia Dennis (middle row, from left), Emory Penner, Ty Wright, Gus Bannon, Holly Bandelier, Isabelle Nely, Lillie Dahn and Saffron Hansen; and Paris Zumbrunnen (back row, from left), Ethan Mallory, Devin Brown, Layla Wiseman, Gavin Eriksen, Kamden Rastkar, Oscar Chamblin, Cody Schmidt, Parker Ramirez and Frankee Ray.

# **A FRESH TAKE**

**SANTA FE TRAIL STUDENTS PRESENT NEW IDEAS TO IMPROVE MOHAWK PARK, INCLUDING A RECYCLING BIN**

BY KRIS BAKER | PHOTOS BY CATHY DONOVAN

The students from Santa Fe Trail Elementary raced across Mohawk Park.

"I'm first," one called out.

"I'm second," said another.

After their impromptu race and with permission from their teacher, Ms. Atkinson, the third-grade students began playing on the jungle gym and slides. These students deserve a little play time; after all, they have already spent a lot of time working to improve this park.

It began with a simple class lesson on civics and local government.

"I was looking at ideas for project-based learning in the area of civic responsibility and local government, when I saw a project similar to this one in another community," explained Kellie Atkinson.

"I thought it would be a fun, engaging way for the Santa Fe students to learn about these more abstract concepts."

The students were tasked with finding a way to improve the nearby Mohawk Park, located at 67th Street and Lamar Avenue. It's the neighborhood park for kids attending Santa Fe Trail, which most of the children were familiar with. The students divided into groups of two to





four, with each group creating a presentation on a way to improve the park. Different ideas were discussed; each group focused on a different improvement. Once the assignments were finished, they decided it was time to give their presentations on a big stage.

That big stage was at Mission City Hall, where last October the students shared their ideas for improvements to Mohawk Park with the Mayor, members of City Council and City staff. The students used visual presentations to introduce the problem or issue they had identified and a potential solution. While you might imagine there were some "pie in the sky" dreams for skate parks and splash grounds, overall the students were focused as much on safety, accessibility and basic necessities as they were on the flashy new amenities with big price tags.

City Council members agreed it was refreshing to hear them talk about softer playground surfacing materials, more picnic tables and handicapped-accessible ramps, and even more exciting to engage them in a conversation about solutions. City staff had prepared some information on the costs to accomplish several of the projects on the wish list, and there was plenty of lively conversation as the students were amazed at how expensive things like drinking fountains and playground equipment can be. It gave them some ideas about potential fundraising projects as well.

One of the issues the students identified was there were no recycling containers in the park. They were

concerned that people using the parks did not have an option to dispose of recyclable items like plastic bottles or aluminum cans. During the conversation, City officials shared that they had two recycling containers that were looking for a good home. It was decided these containers would be installed in Mohawk Park in response to the Santa Fe Trail students' recommendations. The City's Public Works Department poured concrete pads and installed the recycling containers in advance of the spring soccer season.

The idea for the recycling bins came from Isabelle Nely, Holly Bandelier, Saffron



**These four students -- Olivia Dennis (from left), Saffron Hansen, Holly Bandelier and Isabelle Nely -- came up with the idea to place a recycling bin at the park.**

Hansen and Olivia Dennis.

"We thought it would be good for the park because recycling is important, and when there is too much trash around it makes the park not as pretty," Isabelle said.

"I liked that they listened to our idea," Holly chimed in.

Their teacher agreed with them, saying sometimes fresh, young eyes see problems others miss.

"Looking around the park, you wonder, why isn't there a recycling bin?" their teacher asked. "It took the students to identify something that all the adults hadn't thought of."

The class is staying engaged with Mohawk and coming up with more ideas on ways to improve the park. One student, Emory Penner, wanted to add some wheelchair-accessible ramps, saying "I think they should make everywhere more wheelchair accessible."

He had a few other ideas for improvement as well.

"A good water fountain would be nice."

"I am excited to see how involved they all got," Emory's father, Darren, revealed.

Though not in the original group, student Oscar Chamblin helped with the recycling bin idea once it was chosen.

"All the students did their part and did a good job," Oscar said.

In recognition of the work by these students, a special sign was placed on the recycling container located near the play structure, acknowledging the vision and inspiration of these young citizens.





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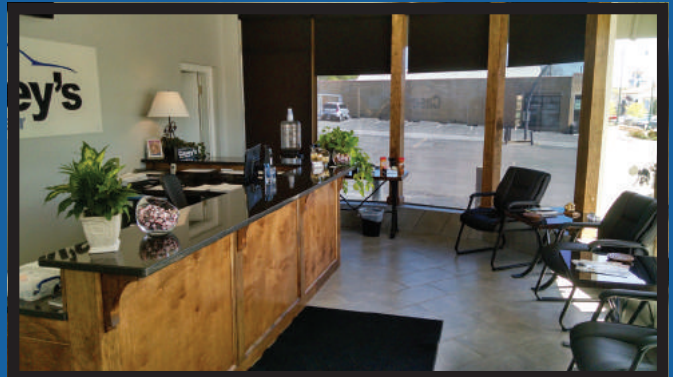
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