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Your Hometown

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2015

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Steeped in holiday tradition!

The best part of serving on the Mission Magazine Editorial Board is that I get to go into residents' homes, sit across the table from them while listening to their stories or stand in their kitchens while I taste a slice of povitica bread. As you visit with them, you come away with stories you remember from your own family that take you back to holidays past.

Traditions! Remembering! Whether it be the look on your child's face as he sees the Christmas tree lit up for the first time; the mess under the tree from all the unwrapping of the packages; the Thanksgiving turkey bowl played in our backyard with my sons and friends as the Chiefs and the Green Bay Packers; driving to the Plaza on Thursday night to see the spectacular lights; reading the Christmas story on Christmas Eve; or watching my grandmother as she proudly sat at the head of the table, watching as family members partook of her mashed potatoes — made with real potatoes, mashed with a potato ricer, and flavored with real butter and whole milk! And, yes, they were delicious! What great memories!

As I listened to and read the stories in this issue, traditions are still bountiful. Making povitica bread is a labor of love, but both Phyllis Fierst and Marsha Russell make the task easier when they fondly reminisce about their mother or other relatives while rolling out the dough.

Food is another great tradition this time of year, especially when we all gather together with friends and

relatives and re-live our many stories. Did you know Avelluto's turns out 60-plus pans of lasagna for carryout Christmas Eve dinners?

A quote I love is "Service is the price you pay for living." As you read this month's magazine, you will see there are a lot of ways you can help others who may not be able to have the traditions we so take for granted. This year is a great time to gather friends, family and co-workers together and join the City of Mission as we make happy memories for those who need them.

Happy holidays to all! And, yes, I still make those wonderful mashed potatoes; mashing them with a ricer, adding real butter, (only) 2 percent milk and serving them in grandma's potato bowl. How special is that!

Enjoy!

Suzie Gibbs
Councilmember, Ward IV

*May all your
wishes come
true*



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ON THE COVER:

JAMES, LEFT, AND JOHN AVELLUTO,
CO-OWNERS OF AVELLUTO'S ITALIAN DELIGHT.
PHOTO BY KRISTIN MCCOPPIN/POND PHOTOGRAPHY

Mission

Your Hometown

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2015

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AN ITALIAN

Christmas

Avelluto's is all about family —
and a lot of lasagna — around the holidays

BY HEATHER SWAN • PHOTOS BY KRISTIN MCCOPPIN / POND PHOTOGRAPHY

Family is at the heart of Avelluto's Italian Delight.

It may be no surprise, then, that many people bring Avelluto's — or their Italian food, rather — into their homes around Christmastime to serve their own families.

Italian Delight, a Mission icon since 1983, does a huge catering business around the holidays and turns into a “lasagna factory,” especially on Christmas Eve. You might be surprised to learn that 60 pans of lasagna went out the door that day last year.

“I have so many repeat customers for lasagna, and it keeps growing every year,” said James Avelluto, who co-owns the restaurant with his brother, John. “...There's a lot of joy in making food people enjoy.”

Once the last lasagna leaves the building during the late afternoon on Christmas Eve, the restaurant at 6522 Martway closes down and becomes the gathering place for the Avellutos themselves and their extended families.

Why cook at someone's house for a crowd of 30 when you have a restaurant-sized kitchen and industrial-sized dishwasher at your disposal?

That evening you will definitely not find lasagna on the family's menu; the Avellutos' Christmas Eve meal consists of seafood, such as mussels, oysters, shrimp, lobster, clams and smoked salmon.

“For Italians, what's on the table brings everybody together,” John Avelluto said.

Whether it's Christmas Eve lasagna, the Wednesday night special of broccoli and macaroni (the dish the owners' mom always cooks for dinner on Wednesdays at her home), or stromboli anytime you feel like it, Avelluto's Italian Delight has been bringing people and families together in Mission for 32 years.

It wasn't always easy...

THE EARLY DAYS OF ITALIAN DELIGHT IN MISSION

Joe Avelluto Sr. was a longshoreman in New York. Avelluto and two other guys — a sub shop owner and a pizza shop owner down by the piers — started driving west looking for a place where they could set up shop selling New York-style fare. The New York Yankees just happened to be playing in Kansas City, so the trio decided to check our city out.

Avelluto and Frank Brunetti (the third partner didn't stay here long) opened a restaurant in Indian Springs Shopping Center in 1977. They expanded to Mission six years later.

Bringing New York-style pizza to Kansas City presented its challenges. The owners were used to having access to Italian delis, bakeries, butcher shops and seafood in Brooklyn.

“These things are easy to find now but, back in 1977, that type of thing wasn't available here,” John said.

They also had to cater to the palate of Midwesterners and expose Kansas City to New York-style pizza.

Pizza in New York is cooked with more of a char; in Kansas City, “char” can be construed as “burned.”

Initially, it was a bit of a struggle.

When they opened Italian Delight in Mission, Joe Sr. would go outside and pass out flyers to cars on Martway.

“My dad was always trying to drum up business,” John said.

Joe Sr. and Frank Brunetti parted ways in 1989, and the Mission restaurant is now known as Avelluto's Italian Delight to distinguish it from Brunetti's Italian Delight in Kansas City, Kansas. Brothers John and James Avelluto have owned the restaurant since 2007.

“I'm proud of them,” Joe Sr. said of his sons. “With Italian food, we do the best job of anyone. We have pioneered a lot of dishes in the Italian tradition.”

“As far as pizza, there’s nobody that does it like us.”

He is also proud of the restaurant’s tiramisu (see recipe on Page 8).

“I think we have the best rendition of tiramisu even over the fancy restaurants,” Joe Sr. said. “This is the way it’s meant to be.”

AVELLUTO’S ITALIAN DELIGHT IN 2015

Every time there’s been a downturn in the economy, business at Avelluto’s Italian Delight has grown. People know they can eat well, maybe get a beer or glass of wine, and don’t have to leave a tip. It’s a good meal at a price that won’t break the bank.

In fact, Italian Delight’s revenue has increased 80 percent since 2007.

“James and I have complete control over everything,” John said. “We make everything ourselves.”

That means if you want your pizza with a little more char, they can do it.

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 or ordering your holiday lasagna, call 913-262-7564. In addition to lasagna, Avelluto’s Italian Delight will be importing 400 to 500 pounds of Italian cookies from New York again this holiday season and a full catering menu is available. You can also learn more at italiandelightmission.com.

Continued on Page 8

Below Left: John Avelluto recently worked on making stromboli.

Below Right: Billy McGill has worked for the Avellutos since the original restaurant opened at Indian Springs Shopping Center in 1977.



RECIPE FROM:

Avelluto's

TIRAMISU

- 6 egg yolks
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup white sugar
- $\frac{2}{3}$ cup milk
- 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ cups heavy cream
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 pound mascarpone cheese
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup strong-brewed coffee, room temperature
- 2 tablespoons amaretto
- 2 (3-oz.) packages ladyfinger cookies
- 1 tablespoon unsweetened cocoa powder

1. In a medium saucepan, whisk together egg yolks and sugar until well-blended. Whisk in milk and cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until mixture boils. Boil gently for 1 minute, remove from heat and allow to cool slightly. Cover tightly and chill in refrigerator for 1 hour.

2. In a medium bowl, beat cream with vanilla until stiff peaks form. Whisk mascarpone cheese into yolk mixture until smooth.

3. In a small bowl, combine coffee and amaretto. Split ladyfingers in half lengthwise and drizzle with coffee mixture.

4. Arrange half of soaked ladyfingers in bottom of a 7-by-11-inch dish. Spread half of the mascarpone mixture over ladyfingers, then half of whipped cream over that. Repeat layers and sprinkle with cocoa. Cover and refrigerate 4 to 6 hours, until set.



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Christmas is sleigh bells Christmas is sharing

Mission's Family Holiday Adoption program continues to grow

BY HEATHER SWAN • PHOTO BY KATE JACOBSEN

Fueled by the generosity of the community and the gratefulness of the people who receive the food and gifts, the City of Mission is once again working to make the holidays bright for Northeast Johnson County residents.

Several years ago, the City of Mission “adopted” eight families for Christmas and gave them gifts on their “wish lists.” Fast forward to today and Mission’s Family Holiday Adoption program is in full swing — and still growing. The needs have increased but so, too, have the number of volunteers and people wanting to help.

Last year, Mission’s Convention and Visitors Bureau gave Thanksgiving baskets (turkeys/hams with all the fixings) to 51 families; delivered a complete Christmas dinner plus extras to 41 Northeast Johnson County families; gave Christmas gifts to 26 families (109 family members) from their wish lists; and collected over 2,300 pairs of socks (1,800 of which were donated by St. Michael’s Men in Ministry) for Uplift Organization Inc.

Some of the heartwarming stories that have come out of the Family Holiday Adoption program over the years include:

- A Shawnee Mission North High School student asked for a high school letter jacket. A Mission garden club wanted its money to go toward a specific purpose and paid for the jacket. “When she opened it on Christmas, she cried,” the student’s mom said.
- A Mission church donated a piano it wasn’t using to a student who wanted a piano for Christmas.
- One year when Mission police officers delivered gifts to a woman in her 80s, they asked if she had any holiday decorations. Officers later returned with a Christmas tree and set it up for her. “She was thrilled to death,” said Suzie Gibbs, who represents Ward 4 on the Mission City Council and oversees the program.
- A little girl who wanted an American Girl doll for Christmas was in awe when she received it, carrying it around everywhere she went.
- When one mom picked up her family’s gifts from the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center, she said she hadn’t received a gift for herself since her mother passed away.
- A mom asked for a clarinet because she had to sell her instrument for money. Someone gave a replacement clarinet to this family.

Left: Kim Donaway was one of the many volunteers who helped to wrap gifts for Mission’s Family Holiday Adoption program last year.



How can I help our Mission and Northeast Johnson County residents this holiday season?

- Bring canned good to the bins at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center
- Donate money for Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets. Donation jars are located at the north and south desks at the Community Center.
- Assemble Thanksgiving baskets at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 24, at the Community Center
- Take your donations of new white socks for Uplift Organization Inc. to the Community Center. These socks are given to homeless men and women.
- Go through your home and look for any NEW and UNUSED items you don't want anymore. Contact Suzie Gibbs at 913-671-8564 or sgibbs@missionks.org to see if she can find a new home for these things.
- Visit the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center the first week of December to select your tags from the trees. Each tag has a wish list item for someone in Mission or Northeast Johnson County. Return the tag and the gift (wrapped or unwrapped) to the Community Center.
- Bring a check or cash to the Community Center so Mission's "elves" can shop for gifts on the remaining tags
- Come wrap gifts at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 22, at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center. Bring your own scissors!

The City finds out which families need help from local schools that Mission children attend. The families are asked for their clothing needs and what would really make their holiday special.

The requests are often for clothing — such as coats, hats, shoes and underwear — and other basics like pots and pans, dishes, lamps, blenders, pillows and pillowcases, dishrags, candles and pot holders.

One year, all one woman wanted was a Bible.

"A lot of people want the simple things just to get by," Gibbs said. "...Most are not looking for the big items.

"...These are the luxuries they can't afford that we take for granted. If everyone looks through their homes and finds things they can't use, I bet I can find a place for it."

The success of this program relies on the generosity of the entire community. For example, an assisted living center donates 10 turkeys for Thanksgiving. Hy-Vee gives a discount on the food purchased for the gift baskets. One resident donates cases of fresh fruits and vegetables from Sutherlands. A Mission auto repair business fixed the car of a mom whose daughter had leukemia. A Mission dental group donates toothbrushes and toothpaste. Many community members and organizations step forward — ranging anywhere from buying one gift to adopting a whole family — and the City receives many donations from businesses, churches and individual residents. In addition, the Mission Merchants Association gave \$1,000 to jumpstart the program this year.

"The residents of Mission come forward and supply us with what we need," Gibbs said. "...I want our residents to feel like they are helping our own Mission residents."

For people who want to donate gifts, the trees will be set up at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center the first week of December. Families are also invited to come and wrap at the Community Center at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 22.

Kathy Lockard, administrative supervisor for Mission Parks and Recreation, said families are amazed and thankful when they see all their gifts waiting at the Community Center. Families often say: "This is all for us?" The City makes sure that each member of the family gets at least two or three gifts.

"They are so grateful and so overwhelmed that they can have a Christmas," Lockard said. "Otherwise, their children may not get anything."

For more information, contact Suzie Gibbs at 913-671-8564 or sgibbs@missionks.org or Kathy Lockard at 913-722-8206 or klockard@missionks.org.



*Christmas is holly
Christmas is caring*





Warming HEARTS & SOULS

Mission resident Theresa Blizman has turned donated yarn into more than 100 scarves

BY HEATHER SWAN

PHOTOS BY KRISTIN MCCOPPIN / POND PHOTOGRAPHY

Just about all of Theresa Blizman's relatives have one of her hand-knitted scarves, hats or afghans.

But, during the holidays, the Mission resident's knitting will extend to a bunch of people she doesn't even know.

Blizman, who works the early morning shift three days a week at the front counter of the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center, has been busy since last winter knitting scarves that will be given to families as part of Mission's Family Holiday Adoption program.

As of mid-September, Blizman had knitted 100 scarves ... and at press time she was still going strong.

Blizman has done all the knitting, but a big shout-out can go to the people who donated yarn. There was a small announcement on the Bulletin Board of the February/March 2015 issue of Mission Magazine asking for yarn donations. That little request has generated all the yarn she has needed so far.

She thinks she will have close to 150 scarves before the holidays.

"If they keep giving me yarn, I will keep on making them," Blizman said.

It takes her 9 hours to make each scarf, which is 47 inches long. Her average scarf production is four or five a week, and one skein of yarn will make at least one full scarf.

"It's a warm feeling," she said of her scarf donation. "Someday I may be out and about and say, 'Wow, they are wearing one of my scarves.'"

Blizman, who was a behavioral specialist at an elementary school for 30 years, operates under the philosophy that she can't help everybody but she can help somebody. Combine her willingness to help people and her love of knitting and you get three full boxes (and counting) of colorful scarves that will warm bodies and souls.

"When I sit and knit, I find it very relaxing," she said, "and I don't have to think."



Blizman moved from Michigan to Mission in June 2012 after her husband Joe passed away. She now literally lives right around the corner from her daughter and son-in-law, Tracy and Paul Richter.

"I'm a Michigander by birth, but I love it here," she said. "It's peaceful and the people are friendly."

"...I love it. I really, really do."

Besides knitting, Blizman enjoys collecting snowmen. The first snowmen in her collection — no surprise — was a pair she knitted around 1977.

The collection grew over the years to 300 snowmen, but she downsized to 200 when she moved here. She keeps 10 or so out year-round. Her cat Clarence has his own snowman toy, too.

Among the scarves and the snowmen, Blizman stays cozy in her Mission home. When you pass by her house, give her a wave through her picture window... she is likely to be sitting in her knitting chair.

If you have yarn (full or partial skeins) that you would like to donate, drop it off at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center and give it to Theresa Blizman or Kathy Lockard.

Above: Theresa Blizman, who works part-time at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center, has been busy knitting scarves for Mission's Family Holiday Adoption program.

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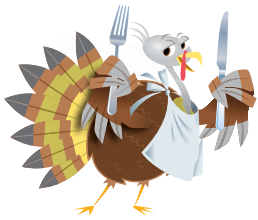
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Mission Bulletin Board

Thanks for Seniors

Thursday, Nov. 19 | 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
\$12 per person for a full Thanksgiving meal



Hosted at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center, 6200 Martway
Entertainment by the Shawnee Mission North High School
Strolling Strings
Cash or non-perishable food items accepted for Northeast Johnson County families
Call 913-722-8200 to register



ARE YOUR FEET COLD?

Wanted new white men's socks! Join the City of Mission and St. Michael's Men in Ministry in warming the feet of hundreds of homeless men and women this winter. Last year we collected over 2,300 pairs of socks – our goal for 2015 is 2,500. We can do this with your help. Sock bins are available at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center.

TREES AND HOLIDAY DÉCOR FOR SALE

The Shawnee Indian Mission Christmas Tree Sale, located at 3403 W. 53rd St. in Fairway, starts at 9 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 27. After Nov. 27, the tree sale — which includes trees, wreaths, swags, garlands and more — will be open from noon to 8 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturdays and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays.

All proceeds will benefit Mission Boy Scout Troop 192 and The Shawnee Indian Mission Foundation.



Calling all kids for 'Christmas Adventures'

Countryside Christian Church, 6101 Nall Ave., is hosting Christmas Adventures — an opportunity for children ages 3 to 12 to learn Bible stories, enjoy music, create crafts and play games. Christmas Adventures will run from 9 a.m. to noon on Dec. 5, 12 and 19. A snack will be provided.

To register online, visit www.csidechristian.org. For more details, call 913-262-1000.

Christmas is caring

UpLift Organization Inc. will be accepting your donations for our annual clothing drive on Thursday,

Nov. 19, from 7 to 11 a.m. in Beverly Park, across from the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center. As cold weather approaches, Uplift especially needs socks, tents, candles, blankets, sweatshirts, gloves, books, hats, sweaters and coats. All clothing should be adult sizes, new or gently used, and freshly laundered.

Load up your car and we will unload it for you! Thank you!



Mission Bulletin Board

DO YOU SEE A 'CHAMPIONSHIP TREE'?

Do you know of a tree that could be designated a "Championship Tree"? If so, the nomination forms for the Championship Tree contest are available at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center or at www.missionks.org. Helpful hint: Deciduous trees are the most photogenic in the fall, so it's a good idea to take those pictures now.



ONE CAN OF CORN BARELY FEEDS A FAMILY OF FOUR!

How can you help? If every resident in Mission would pick up 5 cans of vegetables/fruit for our Mission/Northeast residents, we could supply each family with enough for a month. So, on your next trip to the store, please remember our Family Holiday Adoption Program for both Thanksgiving and Christmas and put some extra cans in your basket. Food containers are available at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center for your donations.

Wanted: volunteer bicycle repair person



Are you willing and able to fix some bicycles for the youth in the city's Family Holiday Adoption program? If so, contact Suzie Gibbs at 913-671-8564 or sgibbs@missionks.org.

Christmas is sleigh bells

Family wish lists will adorn Christmas trees starting Dec. 1 at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center. Pick a name (or two), go shopping, wrap if you wish (or we will wrap for you), deliver your gifts back to the Center, and you will make someone's Christmas brighter.

SAVE THE DATE



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Povitica *for the holidays*

Mission residents keep the tradition of making this Slavic nut bread alive

BY HEATHER SWAN • PHOTOS BY KRISTIN MCCOPPIN / POND PHOTOGRAPHY

Americans call it nut bread but,

in Slavic countries, the spiral bread delicacy of thinly rolled dough and walnuts is known as povitica. Because neighboring Kansas City, Kansas, became home to many Slavic immigrants, Mission is now blessed to have residents who are carrying on the tradition of making this tasty goodie. We at Mission Magazine heard about two povitica bakers: Phyllis Fierst and Marsha Russell. Their povitica is legendary, according to those who have had the privilege of tasting it. But don't expect to get their recipe or buy their bread. They make it — just the way their ancestors did — for their families (and some lucky friends and neighbors sometimes)!

Phyllis Fierst

When Phyllis Fierst brings her povitica to a holiday dinner, she can't cut it quick enough. Her family wants to know if she brought any spare loaves, and everyone has his or her eye on the piece they want.

Fierst learned to make the bread from her mother, Mary (Chop) Pavlich, who most likely got the recipe from her sister-in-law.

"It's so moist and nutty," said Rebecca Duckers, one of Fierst's daughters who is learning to make the bread herself. "We always tell her don't be stingy with the nuts."

Fierst's parents were from Croatia, and she grew up in the Strawberry Hill area of Kansas City, Kansas.

She and her mom used to make povitica together. They would pull the dough out on a full-sized cotton bed sheet, which Fierst still uses today. Because it's now a one-person operation since her mom passed away, Fierst rolls the dough out using a rolling pin.

The making of povitica is an all-day affair that garners eight small loaves. Fierst remembers the time she and her mom were asked to make 100 loaves for a wedding. That

Continued on Page 20

Right: Phyllis Fierst's povitica is enjoyed by about 70 family members on Christmas. Fierst, right, is pictured here with Rebecca Duckers, one of her daughters.



PHOTO RESTORATION



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Continued from Page 18

endeavor required several months of labor and donated freezer space to keep the loaves fresh.

For the holidays, Fierst makes more than 30 small loaves and starts in the fall.

The process includes mixing the dough ingredients in her special bowl, kneading the dough for at least 20 minutes, rolling the dough on the sheet, plopping and spreading the nut filling on top, and using the bed sheet to roll the dough into spirals. Fierst knows all the ingredients and amounts, but it's impossible to explain all the nuances of making a delicious loaf of povitica in a recipe.

Duckers can attest that when making povitica you need patience and an open schedule. It's not inexpensive to make either. And she and her family have learned that when there is povitica making going on, you need to stay away.

"No one is allowed in that kitchen," she said.

So for all this trouble, why does Fierst keep making povitica? It's because of her parents.

"They were people who inspired faith, family, love and forgiveness," said Fierst, who is still working as the office administrative assistant for Pavlich Inc., her family's bulk transport company in Kansas City, Kansas.

Marsha Russell

Neighbors who receive Marsha Russell's povitica bread look forward to it every holiday season.

"I don't know how she does it, but it's really good," said Kenny York, who lives next door to Russell and is the assistant superintendent for Mission Public Works.

A self-taught baker, Russell came up with the povitica recipe she uses today after about five years of experimentation. She started with her grandma's recipe that had been transcribed by her aunt. (Her mother's side of the family is Polish and lived on Strawberry Hill). She then talked to friends' parents who also lived in Kansas City, Kansas, to help fine-tune the recipe.

"I haven't changed a thing," she said. "I keep doing it over and over.

"...Mine is a little less bread and a little more filling. There's nothing low calorie or gluten-free about it."

Modern conveniences have made making povitica easier than it was for her Polish ancestors. She uses stone pans from Pampered Chef, and her children gave her a stand mixer (which was "like heaven.")

"The microwave and food processor make it so much easier," she added.

Russell makes about 100 loaves before the holidays. She gives away some and keeps the rest for her family to enjoy.

"I feel like I can't stop (making the bread for the holidays)," she said. "I feel like a huge piece of the holiday would be missing if I didn't."

To make the povitica, Russell wears her grubbier clothes and an old apron and uses her Jones Store dining room table to roll out the dough. Flour goes everywhere and you can see where walnuts have hit the carpet over the years.

"The clean-up is horrendous," she said. "This house is a disaster area."

Russell made her povitica for a wedding once, and a guest asked if she could make enough for his internationally known company to send the loaves around the world for holiday gifts.

"It was so exciting and flattering, but I just do this by myself in my kitchen," Russell said.

She turned that offer down, but her family and friends still get to enjoy her povitica.

"They all like it," she said of her family. "You have to beat them off."



Left: Marsha Russell makes povitica and other Polish recipes in honor of her heritage.

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CITY OF MISSION *Newsletter*

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2015
VOLUME 10, ISSUE 5
WWW.MISSIONKS.ORG

GETTING TO KNOW THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Sustainability means different things to different people. Since its creation, the group has adjusted its work to the changing needs of the community. Their mission statement reflects a focus on the “Three P’s” - People, Planet, Prosperity.

The Sustainability Commission has been instrumental in several “hands-on” projects including installation of bike racks and recycling bins in downtown Mission, expanded features at the City’s community garden, and hosting the Home Energy Fair in 2013.

The group is currently working with Mission’s Communities for All Ages initiative, assessing how well services offered by the City address the needs of people of all ages and abilities. The Commission will look at services in key areas ranging from public outdoor spaces and buildings, transportation and mobility, and civic participation and employment.

Once the assessment is complete, the Commission will work with City staff and others to identify areas for improvement.

The project list is always evolving - if you have a project or issue that you would like them to consider, please let us know.

Search “Sustainability Commission” at missionks.org to learn more about their projects, and to view past meeting minutes and upcoming meeting agendas.

If you are interested in serving on Mission’s Sustainability Commission, please contact the City Clerk at 913-676-8350 or msumrall@missionks.org.



The Sustainability Commission meets the first Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall.

Sustainability Commission Mission Statement:

Our mission is to advocate for policies and actions that encompass People, Planet, and Prosperity in order to incorporate sustainable practices in our community.

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If you would like to make a contribution to the Memorial Flag Fund, please contact Mission City Hall at 913-676-8368 or erandel@missionks.org.

Dear Friends and Neighbors, Mission's holiday assistance programs have kicked off again this year, and I hope you will consider being part of this important effort. For the Thanksgiving holiday, we will be collecting food and monetary donations to fund Thanksgiving Baskets. Donations may be dropped off at the Community Center or City Hall and, if you would like to help with putting the baskets together for delivery, mark your calendar for Tuesday morning, November 24th at the Community Center.



Also in connection with the Thanksgiving Holiday is our annual clothing drive to help Uplift Organization by collecting clothing, coats, blankets and toiletries to assist the homeless. The donations truck will be in the parking lot south of Beverly Park on Thursday morning, November 19th. If you are coming to our Thanks for Seniors Luncheon, you can drop your items before heading in to enjoy lunch with friends. For Christmas, our family adoption program provides both gifts and food to brighten the holidays. By December 1st, gift tags will

be available on the trees at the Community Center. Take one or a few – every donation touches a life! This year's holiday lights celebration is scheduled for the evening of November 28th. We'll be enjoying our tree lighting, carriage rides and, of course, Santa at our Mission Market location on Johnson Drive.

When we come together as a community, the impact is dramatic, but so many of our residents and businesses improve the quality of all our lives daily in small ways. I hope you will take time to read the article on Carolyn McGuirk that is included in this magazine. Carolyn was recently honored by Hy-Vee for her exemplary customer service, receiving the 2015 Hy-Vee Legendary Customer Service Award. We appreciate the example she sets each day - taking pride in her work, and treating customers with respect and a smile. Congratulations, Carolyn!

Our newsletter also includes several articles that highlight the recent work of the City Council. Two citizen surveys were conducted this summer to collect feedback on the quality of City services, and to help set priorities for the future. Our residents confirmed that streets remain a priority, along with redevelopment efforts and maintain-

ing our neighborhoods. The survey results were also considered as Council worked on the 2016 Budget. This year's budget challenges included a need to increase our stormwater utility and the continued funding of street maintenance. We were able to accomplish this with an increase of 7 mills, which are dedicated to street maintenance and in lieu of the transportation utility fee, and an increase of \$5/per ERU for the stormwater utility. Please take a moment to read the newsletter article below with additional details on the 2016 Budget.

Flags are again flying along Johnson Drive in honor of Veterans Day. Thank you to all who have made a donation towards this project honoring those who have or are serving in our military. We are truly blessed here in Mission. The spirit of the holidays encourages us to be more focused on others and thankful and giving, so I offer my thanks to you in advance for your generosity and support.

Sincerely,

Steve Schowengerdt
Mayor

MISSION'S 2016 BUDGET – WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU

In August, after months of review and discussion, the City Council adopted the 2016 Budget. Each year, the budget must balance many competing projects and priorities. The primary challenges for 2016 included the need to increase revenues in the stormwater utility and how to continue to fund street maintenance, all without compromising the quality of basic service delivery.

The final budget includes an increase of 7 mills (dedicated entirely to street maintenance) and an increase of \$5/per ERU in the stormwater utility to accomplish the following:

- Generates approximately \$833,000 for streets (City will not assess the Transportation Utility Fee in 2016)
- Generates an additional \$450,000 annually to fund stormwater debt service
- Funds the highest priority capital equipment needs for the operating departments
- Maintains all existing programs and services
- Shows continued progress toward rebuilding fund balance

When a Mission family looks at a dollar of their property taxes, here is how it is divided among all of the services the City provides:



* Parks and Recreation is funded mostly from their own fees for service (i.e. Community Center memberships)

For more a more detailed look at what Mission's 2016 budget means for you and your family, please visit the City's website at www.missionks.org.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



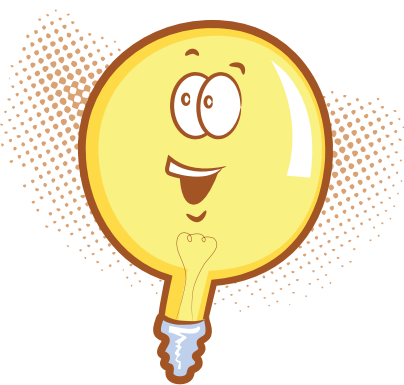
Mission's annual clothing drive is just a few days away. Donations of gently used clothing, coats, blankets, camping equipment and toiletries help UPLIFT Organization (uplift.org) assist the less fortunate in the Kansas City area. Stop by Beverly Park between 7:00 – 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 19th - volunteers will be available to help unload your donated items. UPLIFT's goal is to deliver to the homeless of Kansas City those basic human needs, care and compassion that are not usually received from other organizations.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Mission has an on-line construction permit fee calculator available. Search "calculator" or visit the Community Development page on missionks.org to use either the commercial or residential calculator. For assistance or additional information, contact Community Development at 913-676-8360.

- Are you planning on installing a fence? Permits are required for any new fence, an extension of an existing fence or when more than 50% of an existing fence is being replaced.

- Residents in single family homes are allowed 2 dogs and 2 cats. If you would like to have a third dog, a special permit is required. Contact City Hall at 913-676-8350 for more information.



- Walking and biking this winter? Remember that walkers should always walk on the left-hand side of the road facing traffic and bikers should travel with traffic. If you are using earphones when walking, be sure the volume is low enough that you are able to hear traffic. Always wear reflective clothing and have the proper bicycle lights if you're walking or biking after dark.

LEAF BUSTERS AND SNOW ANGELS NEEDED

During the fall and winter months, a number of Mission residents need assistance with their leaf and snow removal. Live in the area and looking for volunteer opportunities or wanting to help your neighbors? Please contact Neighborhood Services for more information on how to help someone near you.

If you are needing assistance, please let us know. We will try to connect you with one of our Leaf Busters or Snow Angels. You will need to provide them with paper yard waste bags and rakes for leaf pick-up, and shovels for snow.

To participate, contact Neighborhood Services at 913-676-8358.

AUTUMN YARD WASTE REMINDERS

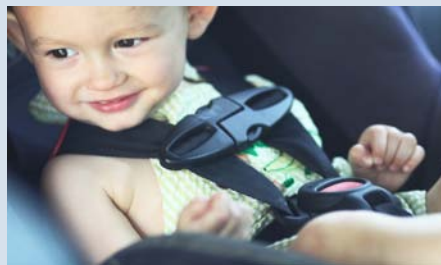
November and December Curbside Collection:

Residents may place up to 12 setouts of limbs, twigs, and/or leaf yard waste bags per week. Bundles should not include limbs more than 4 ft. in length, larger than 18" in diameter and no more than 65 lbs. Do not use wire to bundle; string or twine is acceptable. Additional bundles or bags require an overage sticker (\$1.50 each at City Hall).

Remember, mulching is a great way to reduce yard waste! It helps it to retain moisture and adds nitrogen needed to fertilize the soil.

Deffenbaugh Landfill Drop-off:

Mission residents can dispose of yard waste free of charge at the Deffenbaugh Customer Convenience Center located at I-435 & Holliday Drive in Shawnee. You will need your proof of address and commercially generated materials will not be accepted; leaves must be in paper bags and limbs more than 4 ft. long or larger than 12" diameter will not be accepted.



FREE CAR SEAT CHECK-UP EVENT

Is your child in the right car seat? Is your car seat installed correctly? Mission's certified car seat installers can assist you.

Mission will hold a free car seat check-up event on Thursday, November 12th from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.

No appointment necessary. For additional information contact Officer Jeremy Assal at 913-676-8300 or jassal@missionks.org.



SURVEY SAYS...

What do you think should be Mission's priorities for the future? Are you satisfied with the quality and level of services in our city? What other programs should the city offer to residents? These are just some of the questions residents were recently asked through two surveys that were conducted this summer. The first survey was designed to collect information on residents' opinions on long-term goals and vision for the City, and our parks and recreation facilities and programs. The second, a DirectionFinder Survey, provided data that can be "benchmarked" against previous Mission surveys, as well as other local communities.

This is not the first time Mission has surveyed residents. As in 2007 and 2011, the 2015 surveys randomly sampled households throughout the city. Approximately 600 responses were received for each survey, allowing the Governing Body and staff to better understand how well services are being delivered, where improvements are needed, and what services and programs should receive the highest priority in future years.

Several major findings emerged, including:

- Residents were generally satisfied with the overall quality of services, with livability of neighborhoods, quality of police services and parks & recreation programs, and maintenance of City buildings and

facilities rising to the top.

- Those services that residents thought should receive the most increase in emphasis over the next two years included planning efforts to promote redevelopment, maintenance of City streets, and the quality and livability of neighborhoods.

- Residents indicated they were most satisfied with the overall feeling of safety in Mission, the quality of life in the City and the quality of services provided. Efforts to communicate with residents also saw a significant increase from the 2011 survey.

- Maintaining and/or expanding green space received a score of 75% support.

- The Community Center and the new outdoor aquatics facility both received satisfaction ratings of 80% and above.

- Eighty-one percent of residents support mixed-use neighborhoods (small retail shops, townhomes, condominiums, loft-style residential units, and parkland).

The complete DirectionFinder Survey results are available on the City's website (missionks.org). Results from the surveys are being used to help guide the work the Governing Body, as well as both the Parks Master Plan and the Comprehensive Plan Update steering committees. If you received and completed a survey, your ideas and opinions on the future of Mission are included in this important tool to help shape the future of our City.



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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

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City Hall Office.....913-676-8350

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

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The Quadrant
You'll Love Our Outlook

Mission neighbors come together to form *'The Quadrant'*

One of its many activities, four Outlook families explore Mission while on a 'Johnson Drive Crawl'

BY HEATHER SWAN • PHOTOS BY TOM RANDEL

If you see a group of people strolling down Johnson Drive in matching neon yellow T-shirts, you are likely witnessing The Quadrant out and about.

Walnut View neighbors who have become great friends came up with the name, The Quadrant, to describe their group of four homes at the end of Outlook Street.

They even have their own slogan ("You'll Love Our Outlook"), Facebook page, T-shirts and logo.

If you want to get to know The Quadrant, the logo is a good place to start:

- Jon and Kelly Dunn — the motorcycle, for their interest in cycling — have lived in their home since 2010.
- The Bakers — parents Greg and Julie and their almost-teenagers Anna and Adam — are the fire on the logo, for their love of campfires and their s'mores parties. They are also the longest tenured residents of The Quadrant, having lived in their home for 15 years.
- Stephen and Laura Young, who moved into their home in 2007, are represented by the boat. They enjoy boating and spending time at the lake.
- The newest residents of The Quadrant are the Hermansons, who have been there since 2013. The beer glass stands for Matthew and Juli's beer brewing. They are the parents of 2 ½-year-old Luke and baby James.

The neighbors regularly do things together and have impromptu gatherings on their end of Outlook. Conversations like

"I've never had a Fluffy Fresh doughnut" and "I've never been to Longboards" led them to the idea of doing a "Johnson Drive Crawl." The Quadrant took their show on the road last spring for its inaugural crawl, where the neighbors visited many of Johnson Drive's restaurants and shops.

"With everything popping up on Johnson Drive, we are really excited about it," Kelly Dunn said.

These types of activities and bonding have made The Quadrant like a family.

"We don't have any family in Kansas City so this is our family," Laura Young said.

The Dunsns have talked about moving to southern Johnson County because of Jon's business in southern Kansas City.

"But we probably never will move because of the neighbors," Jon said.

"The town and the neighbors keep us here," Kelly added. "...It's like a neighborhood should be."

Matthew Hermanson said they go from having no plans one minute to having the whole evening filled due to things like impromptu potluck dinners with food the four families have on-hand.

"I like that everyone takes care of each other," his wife Juli Hermanson said.

Julie Baker said it's probably unusual for a neighborhood to be this close.

"I think it's usual," added her daughter Anna. "It's usual to me."



Above: The Quadrant re-created its Johnson Drive Crawl — with Santa hats for our holiday issue. Pictured are, from left, Jon Dunn, Stephen Young, Matthew Hermanson and Greg Baker.

Right: Residents of The Quadrant include, from left, Juli, Luke and Matthew Hermanson, Kelly and Jon Dunn, Laura Young, Julie Baker, Stephen Young, James Hermanson, and Greg, Adam and Anna Baker.





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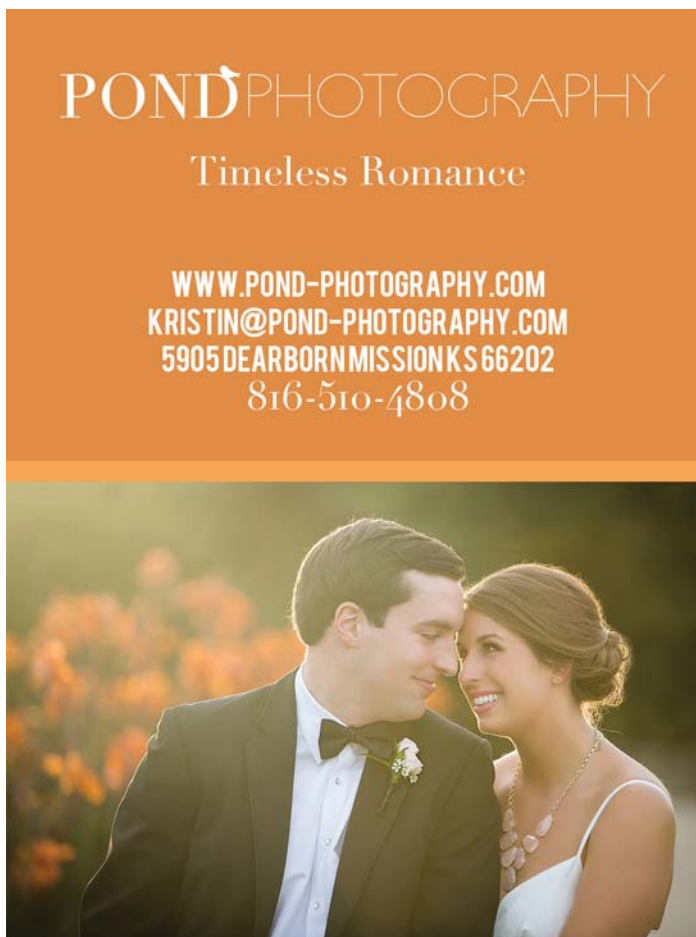
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HOLIDAY traditions

We just love learning about the various ways people celebrate the holidays. We hope you enjoy reading about how some of our friends associated with the City of Mission celebrate.

Weeks before Christmas, I make my grandmother's apricot marmalade to give as gifts to friends. Since my grandmother did not have a thermometer to make the marmalade, she counted the times it pops out of the pan, which takes one hour! Priceless but delicious marmalade as I remember counting the pops with her.

Suzie Gibbs
City Council, Ward 4

At Christmas Day family dinner the table was set with china plates. My father's "surprise" was a silver dollar placed under every plate for all 22 family members there. Even small children knew to check under their plates before dinner was served at the "kids table."

Mary Brighton Funk
Mission Park Board

The "Family Christmas Star" is 8 feet long and is constructed of five PVC pipes that are wrapped with 800 white lights. With our friend George's help (and his bow and arrow) we are able to hang the star from the highest bough on the large ash tree in our front yard. The star is visible from a long distance and receives dozens of positive/fun comments each year.

Dave Shepard
City Council, Ward 4

When our kids were little, we would give them a bath, put them in their pajamas, pop popcorn and take a "Pajama Drive" to look at Christmas lights. As the kids got older they didn't want to give up the tradition, so we still load up our adult children (in their pajamas), pile in the car with our popcorn and enjoy the lights!

Laura Smith
City Administrator

My wife Amy and I have developed a tradition over the years of getting a Christmas tree ornament that represents something significant in our lives over the past year. These usually entail a trip that we took together but can also include things like an ornament of a home (the year we bought our first house); an ornament of a boat (the year we bought our boat); or a baby ornament (the year our daughter Hillary was born).

Brian Scott
Finance Director

Every year for Christmas my sister and I purchase our father the Russell Stover "pink bow" box of chocolates. We always eat the absolute best pieces out of the box first, then wrap it in an unrecognizable box. We all laugh as he opens the box. He gets tickled by it every time.

Amy Miller
City Council, Ward 2



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Charming, colorful illustrations complement this gentle story, which teaches young readers that best friends can be neighbors or a part of your own family, and that learning to say "goodbye" — but cherishing happy memories forever — is an important part of growing up.

Best Friends, highlights children's youthful adventures, evokes the sweet spirit of carefree early friendships — perfect for children who are just beginning to read, or for adults to read to children who can't!

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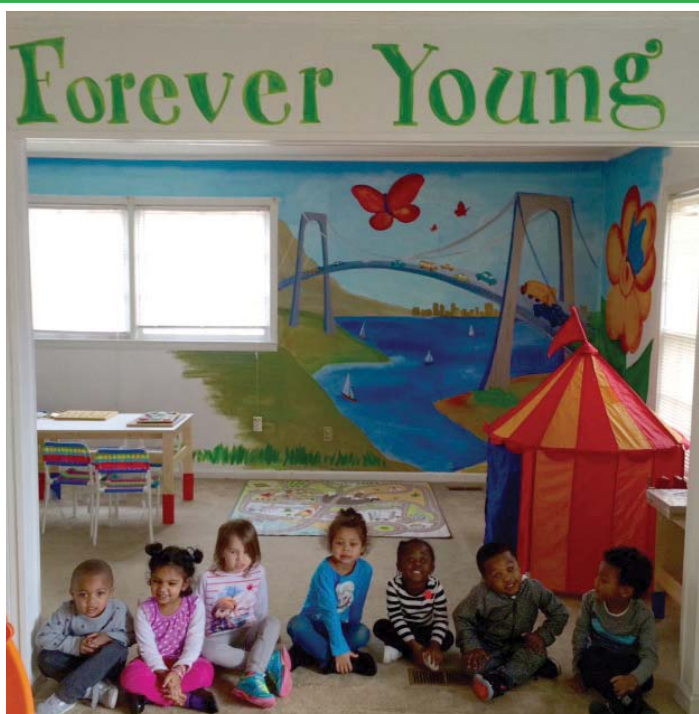


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Connector *and* collector?

*Stoney Bogan brings businesses together —
and is known for his red cars and one-of-a-kind shoes*

BY HEATHER SWAN • PHOTOS BY KRISTIN MCCOPPIN / POND PHOTOGRAPHY

If you ask Stoney Bogan, he really isn't a very big collector of things.

But his co-workers at the Northeast Johnson County Chamber of Commerce and business owners in Mission have noticed something about Bogan.

He sure has a lot of shoes.

Bogan, who is the business development director for the Chamber, wears his usual business-casual attire on Fridays. But if you look down, you will see he is also donning a unique pair of footwear.

"On Fridays I never wear the same pair of shoes twice," he said.

In all, Bogan has about 300 pairs of shoes. About 40 are black dress shoes that look almost exactly alike. On a recent day at Twisted Sisters Coffee Shop Bogan

showed off his "Mission shoes" — a black dress pair that's almost worn down to holes in the bottom due to walking up and down Johnson Drive.

Back when he was a junior at Fayetteville High School in Arkansas 36 years ago, he received a pair of football shoes from Nike.

That's what kicked it all off.

Bogan didn't mean to collect all these shoes. People he knows buys him one-of-a-kind shoes (like the paper shoes in his collection) in sizes 10 ½ to 11 ½ when they see them. As a result, most of the shoes in Bogan's closet are gifts he has received and some of them have never been worn.

But he does find some for himself occasionally. Bogan, who has his pilot's license, recently bought a pair of shoes

with airplanes on them at an airport in Topeka, Kansas.

"It's too many shoes for a man to have," he said.

After this story is published, Bogan is considering selling his shoe collection and giving the money to charity or donating the shoes to a charitable organization.

That type of commitment to the community is also what Bogan is known for around here. Bogan lives in Merriam, but he is well-known around Mission because of his job and his involvement. (You may have seen his 1970 Cutlass convertible driving around town. Besides shoes, he has a "collection" of six cars — four classic and two newer models — all in red.)

Before he started working full-time for



the Northeast Johnson County Chamber of Commerce 2 ½ years ago, he had been a member of the Chamber since 2003 and chairman of the board for the organization. In addition, he is a member of the Rotary Club of Shawnee Mission, which meets in Mission.

"I'm here in Mission all the time," he said.

As part of his job, Bogan feels his role is to connect businesses with each other. He knows what the businesses in Mission can do (and the special talents of their owners) and how they can help each other.

"I want to make sure all these businesses thrive and I will do whatever I can to help," he said.

If you are a business owner and need something, Bogan will try to assist. Sometimes that means getting a business owner in front of the right people to create a business opportunity; he also spreads the word about good service when he sees it.

"When we have new businesses in the area I want to make it as easy as possible for them," he said.

Bogan's quirky background includes appearances in some movies and TV shows (he was in the TV mini-series "The Blue and the Gray" and has the People magazine to prove it); ran a campaign for Bill Clinton back in his days as a democrat; and organized a Wal-Mart shareholders' meeting for Sam and Helen Walton.

But now he's here and ready to do whatever he can for Northeast Johnson County.

"I have pride in this community," he said. "I like what's happening here."

Above: Stoney Bogan, business development director for the Northeast Johnson County Chamber of Commerce, has about 300 pairs of shoes in addition to six red cars — four classic and two newer models. Here Bogan is pictured with some of his shoes and his 1970 Cutlass convertible.

Right: Bogan even has a pair of paper shoes.



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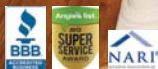
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Legendary Customer Service Award

A helpful smile at the customer service desk

Mission Hy-Vee's Carolyn McGuirk is one of the company's
10 Legendary Customer Service Award winners this year

BY HEATHER SWAN • PHOTO BY KRISTIN MCCOPPIN / POND PHOTOGRAPHY

Carolyn McGuirk was told she needed to come into work on a Sunday morning in August to have her photo taken for Mission Magazine.

McGuirk, customer service manager at Mission Hy-Vee, came to the store that day to find that there was no Mission Magazine photo shoot. Instead, she was receiving Hy-Vee's 2015 Legendary Customer Service Award. Only 10 out of more than 78,000 Hy-Vee employees in eight states win the award each year. McGuirk was the only Kansas City area winner this year.

"It's a very big honor to know people care about you so much to nominate you," said McGuirk, who lives in Spring Hill, Kansas, and has worked at the customer service desk at Mission Hy-Vee for 16 years. "...I still cry about it. You come in every day and you don't know what impact you have on people even in a grocery store."

Co-worker Celia Dalton, event coordinator at the store, has nominated McGuirk for the award for several years. This year, she asked customers to write letters about McGuirk that she could include with her nomination. Some of the stories about McGuirk's friendship and loyalty to her customers include:

- One woman keeps coming back to the store to talk to McGuirk even though she lives 18 miles away.
- When one of her loyal customers passed away, the woman's husband found himself missing payments on some bills. McGuirk walked him through what his wife would do each month and coached him on the best strategy to attend to these matters on a monthly basis.
- McGuirk visited another customer in the hospital every day to see if he and his wife needed anything.

"Your customers become your family," she said. "You see them every day and you know what's going on in their lives."

McGuirk wants her customers to leave happy so they will want to come back and have the same experience again.

"My biggest goal is for them to have a smile on their face when they leave the counter," she said. "I'm the last person they see."

Nominations for the award are evaluated on the employee's passion for customer service, attitude, initiative, teamwork, problem-solving skills, dedication to Hy-Vee

fundamentals, communication skills, professional image and self-confidence.

"Carolyn personifies what Hy-Vee stands for — helpful, honest and dedicated service to our customers," said Dan Welsh, store director at Mission Hy-Vee, 6655 Martway. "Her dedication to our community and the people that live in it is evident each and every day through her hard work. Carolyn is the kind of employee that any smart corporation should hire, honor, celebrate and hold out as a model example to its employees."

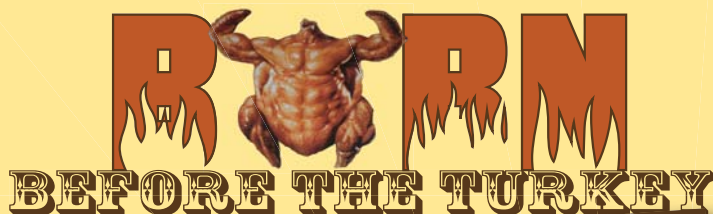
For earning the award, her prizes include a gold nametag (I'm good with a black nametag," she said. "I'm no better than anyone else. We are a team."); a customized ring; an opportunity to attend the Hy-Vee stockholders' meeting in Des Moines, Iowa, in December; and her picture (along with the other winners' photos) will be prominently displayed on the side of Hy-Vee trucks.

"That will be super exciting," she said. "There goes my face down the highway."

Below: Carolyn McGuirk, customer service manager at Mission Hy-Vee, had her picture taken for Mission Magazine — for real this time.



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Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: Bridge Play, 2-5pm, \$1/person

Nov. 10: 50 & + Matinee: Non-Stop (PG-13), \$1/person

Nov. 24: 50 & + Matinee: Limitless (PG-13), \$1/person

Nov. 26: Thanksgiving Day, SPJCC is closed

Nov. 30: December Fitness Classes Start!

Dec. 7, 14, 21: Bridge Play, 2-5pm, \$1/person

Dec. 8: 50 & + Matinee: San Andreas (PG-13), \$1/person

Dec. 18: BINGO! Holiday theme! 1:00-2:30pm,

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Dec. 21-23: LEGO Engineering, 5-6yrs: 9a-12p

7-12yrs: 1p-4p, \$110-\$105MDR/child

Dec. 22: 50 & + Matinee: Age of Adaline (PG-13), \$1/person

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve, SPJCC closes at 5:00pm

Dec. 25: Christmas Day, SPJCC is closed

Dec. 31: New Year's Eve, SPJCC closes at 5:00pm

Jan. 1: New Year's Day, SPJCC is closed

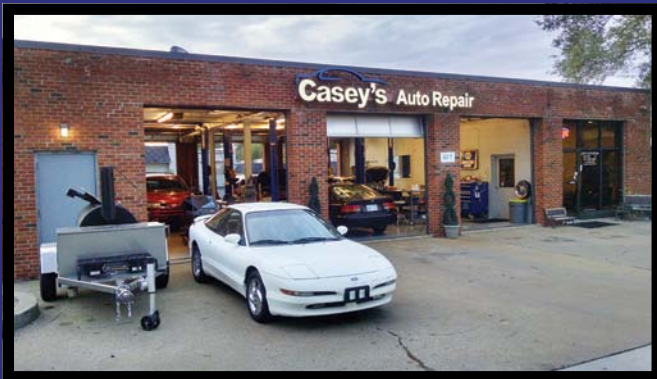


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