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# Give the gift of Love

I love my small paring knife. I love a good bowl of vegetable soup in the winter and a cool glass of mint iced tea in the summer. I love a beautiful sunset over a body of water. I love my pearl earrings that my husband so gingerly picked out for me. I love the smile of a small child when he sees his mother or father. I love my family, the city I live in and the people who reside here. I love the smell of a roast cooking on a snowy day and the fact that I can put on my warm-up suit and sit by the fireplace. And I love listening to '50s music while reading autobiographies of important people.

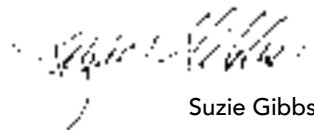
What do you love? When you think about what you love, it is usually the small things! And as I was thinking about the things I love — and my list could go on and on — I realized that many people don't have a lot of things they can say they really love this time of the year. For a variety of reasons, many people won't be looking forward to the holidays. Some in our own city are struggling to get by financially, some are all alone, and illness has caused a lot of our residents to be homebound. So, how can we, as a community, help everyone to love something, even if it is only two days — Thanksgiving and Christmas?

Eight years ago, the City of Mission began adopting families

for the holidays, taking them bountiful meals for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Fast forward to 2016. We provided Thanksgiving dinner to 72 families and supplied 65 families with a Christmas meal and gifts for the entire family. I loved watching a 6-year-old smile as she pulled a fresh pineapple out of the food box and claimed "this is mine, all mine." A pineapple, of all things. At another home, a lady cried when she saw her name on a wrapped gift. She had not received a present since her mother died; she was the giver, but not the receiver. I love these stories.

You can also give the gift of love to a child or a family. Christmas wish lists of our own Northeast Johnson County families are hanging on Christmas trees at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center. Make a young child or senior adult smile this holiday by picking up a tag — or two, or more — go shopping, and tenderly wrap it. You can also join us as we wrap gifts, deliver meals, or make up food baskets. (See page 37 for more information.) It will certainly make you smile, warm your heart and realize how the little things mean so much to so many people who are struggling this time of year. They will love you for caring!

Enjoy the little things this holiday season!



Suzie Gibbs

## On the Cover:

Mission resident Mr. Stinky Feet, Jim Cosgrove has entertained young audiences for over 20 years. He has performed all over the country, including numerous holiday concerts.

Photo by Cathy Donovan



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# Mission

Your Hometown

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2017

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# MR. STINKY FEET ENJOYS THE SMELL OF SUCCESS

Mission resident Jim Cosgrove made his name as 'kid rocker'

By Kris Baker | Photos by Cathy Donovan

Jim Cosgrove packed up his guitar and walked out of the school auditorium. He had just performed for a large elementary school crowd during an assembly and was walking down the hall when he heard several students call after him. There were referring to him by the name of one of the songs he had just performed.

"Hey, stinky feet! Hey, stinky feet!"

Jim spun around and called back to the kids.

"Hey, that's Mr. Stinky Feet."

That is the day that Mr. Stinky Feet was born. Since then, Jim's "stinky feet" have taken him across North America and Europe

as a perennial favorite in the kids' music scene. After the name stuck, Jim was playing his guitar and singing songs to sold-out venues as kids everywhere were yelling out "Hey, Mr. Stinky Feet." He has performed more than 3,500 concerts, including two at the White House, and released nine albums. Jim has been honored with numerous awards from parenting groups including seven Parents' Choice Awards. However, he said one of the best things he was ever named came from that incident in the school hallway.

"I didn't take a poll or plan it," Jim said. "The name is a gift the kids gave to me."

As for the name of the song, it too came from friendly inspiration. "A friend of mine who is a second-grade teacher said if you want to make kids laugh, sing about underwear and stinky feet," Jim laughed. "It worked! Two of my first big hits were about stinky feet and a dinosaur dancing in his underwear."

And so it began, and his life as a "kid rocker" would have some more unexpected twists along the way.

### 'OOEY GOOEY'

Not just the name, but Jim's entire journey to becoming Mr. Stinky Feet began by accident. Jim had enjoyed singing all his life, so he taught himself how to play the guitar, learning from a book. While learning, he would play around with some songs to entertain his nieces and nephews. Then, in 1998, opportunity rang.

"A friend who worked at Barnes & Noble called me and asked if I would be interested in playing for kids during their story time," Jim recalled. "Since the kids and their parents liked my songs, they asked me to come back. I started doing more story times at other book stores and then at schools and libraries. It was catching on."

As he was leaving one of those gigs at Barnes & Noble a young woman named Jeni, who had booked him for the appearance, offered to carry his guitar out to his car for him. This was another instance of fate stepping into Jim's life.

"After meeting Jim that day, I knew my life had changed in a wonderful way," Jeni said.

Jim and Jeni fell in love, were married and Jim began getting more work. By 2000 he was Mr. Stinky Feet full time and knew he could make a living entertaining children. He and Jeni went out

on the road together. After they had two daughters, the whole family was traveling the country together.

"Some say you can't have your marriage work on the road, then they say you can't raise a family on the road, but we did it and it worked," Jim said. "The more leaps you take, the easier it gets."

Jim said having children did change him in some important ways.

"After I had kids my writing style changed," Jim revealed. "I started writing more sensitive songs."

Jim's next leap took him to the White House in 2005 and 2006 where he and his band played for the Easter Egg Roll, an annual event attracting about 30,000 people.

As thrilling as playing at the White House was, another treasured moment happened here in his hometown of Kansas City.

The Kansas City Symphony approached Jim in 2005 and asked if he would perform some of his songs with them. Jim was excited about the idea and gave a performance at Johnson County Community College in front of an 80-piece orchestra.

He performed another sold-out show with the symphony again in 2012 shortly after the opening of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts.

"Having these terrific musicians learn my songs, it was overwhelming," Jim remembered. "It blew me away. Even my mother, who never really cared for my song 'Stinky Feet,' had to admit that it was pretty cool."

Jim has performed in 40 states as well as in England, Germany, Spain and Italy, entertaining kids on American military bases. He will return to perform in England in March. He also has some upcoming holiday performances of his album "Mr Stinky Feet's Christmas." For a schedule of his concerts visit his website at [www.jimcosgrove.com](http://www.jimcosgrove.com).

### 'SWIMMING IN NOODLES'

Jim wears a lot of hats, though they are usually baseball caps. In addition to singing and entertaining kids he is a motivational speaker for adults. He is working on a new CD, to go along with earlier favorites like "Ooey Gooey" and "Swimming in Noodles." Jim and Jeni also founded Jiggle Jam, a music festival for kids and their families.

"We did Jiggle Jam for seven years," Jim said. "It grew into the largest independent family music festival in the country. We had families attend from 14 states and music acts from all over the country. We hope to bring it back some day."

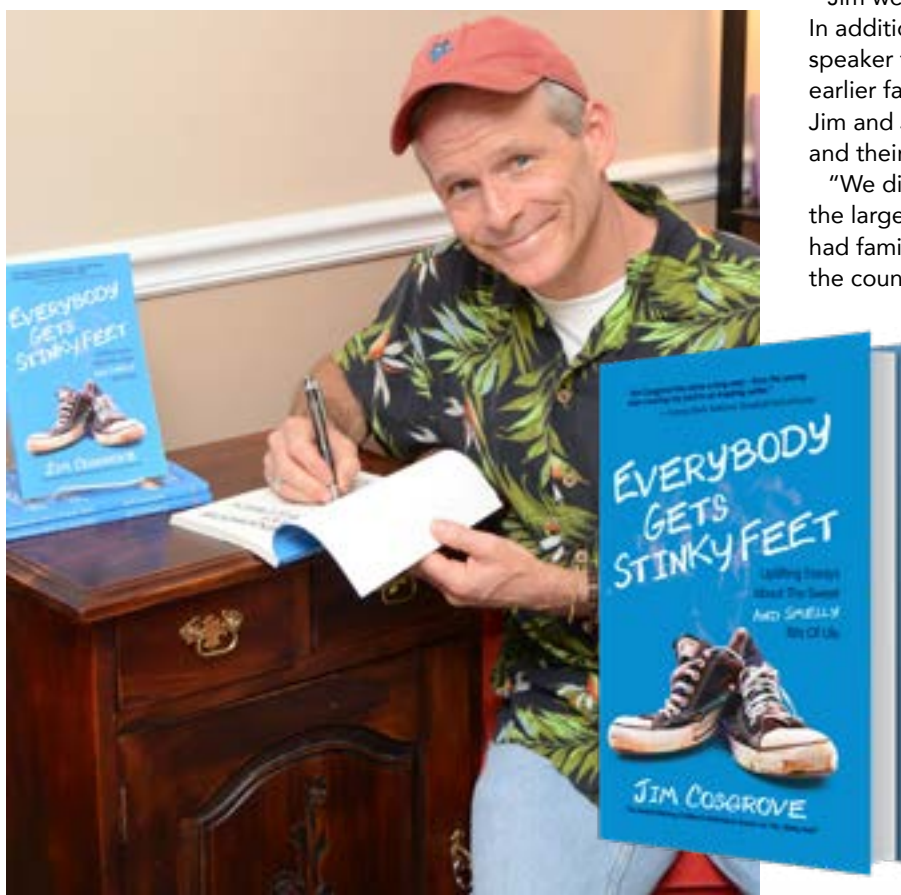
Jim, Jeni and their two daughters, Lyda and Willa, have lived in Mission for the last four years. He said Kansas City has a strong group of talent in the kids independent music scene, which he refers to as "kindie" artists.

For six years Jim wrote a parenting column for The Kansas City Star. He has taken 32 of his favorite essays and put them together in a book entitled "Everybody Gets Stinky Feet." He said the book is his opportunity to share all the wisdom he has gained from his young audiences over the years.

"The best part of what I do is working with kids," Jim explained. "They are so honest and feel things so intensely. Talking to kids reminds me to live in the present and that every moment is important. They've kept me young and enjoying life."

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LEAPS YOU  
TAKE, THE  
EASIER IT GETS."**

**- Jim Cosgrove**







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# BONFIRE: a collective space for local artists

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By Kris Baker  
Photos by Cathy Donovan



Rusty Wright (left) and Jason Domingues founded Bonfire, a collaborative space for creative people to work under one roof. Bonfire is located at 6104 Johnson Drive.



**W**hen different sparks come together they can create a blazing fire. Likewise, when different creative minds come together, it can spark a glowing bonfire fueled by imaginative work.

This is the design of Bonfire, a “Create Space” — a collective workspace meant to connect creative people and give them an area to do their own work while also sharing ideas with each other. Bonfire, 6104 Johnson Drive, is one part

office space, one part photo studio and one part hands-on work space, with a measure of retail space added in. More importantly, however, Bonfire is about cultivating relationships.

Bonfire was first ignited by Rusty Wright and husband-wife duo Jason and Allison Domingues. Rusty and Jason are both photographers and were looking for a small studio space. After looking at a number of locations they heard a retail space on Johnson Drive had become available. Upon seeing it they immediately loved it, but realized it was more room than they needed, with the rent higher than they anticipated.

“That’s when we decided to bring in other artists and rent out space,” Rusty explained. “It seemed like a good opportunity to bring in other folks who needed this kind of resource.”



**Kelly Conner, a metalsmith, works on her newest creations in her workspace in Bonfire.**

---

**“BONFIRE IS A COLLABORATIVE WORKSPACE. WE ARE INDEPENDENT CREATIVES WHO APPRECIATE THE UNIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES CREATED WHEN LIKE-MINDED FOLKS BRUSH SHOULDERS. BONFIRE EXISTS TO FACILITATE THESE UNIONS AND TO SERVE AS SPACE IN WHICH TO CREATE, DREAM, BUILD AND BE.”**

---

**- BONFIRE MISSION STATEMENT**

Rusty and Jason had heard about the relatively new phenomenon of collaborative artist spaces, and thought this idea would work in Mission.

“It just made sense,” Jason agreed. “We wanted to bring in any kind of creative person no matter what work they did.”

Bonfire currently has eight artists and creative people working inside its walls, which is about at capacity according to Rusty. There are photographers, graphic designers, clothing designers, a filmmaker, a

metalsmith and a youth group developer. He said they are very pleased with this current mix.

“We have so many talented people working together, it makes for a fun atmosphere,” Rusty said. “You can’t ask for more than that.”

### **PORTRAIT OF LOCAL ARTISTS**

Metal twists and stones crack, dust flies and the soldering iron burns.

The bang of a hammer hitting metal rings out from the back of Bonfire. The delivery door is open and the sun shines in, illuminating blue and green stones as well as glass and metal. Kelly Conner, a metalsmith, is hard at work on a new bracelet, getting her new collection ready for the Plaza Art Fair. She holds up her new piece to examine it.

“Being a metalsmith, it’s a very secluded job,” Kelly said as she looks over the bracelet. “I was working at home and I was getting a little stir crazy. When I heard about Bonfire, it was perfect timing. Now I can get out of the house, do my own work while also interacting with others. I have freedom but also a day-to-day-to-day routine to settle into that gives you some structure and can help you focus on your work.”

Kelly has been working at Bonfire for almost two years. She has been able to set up her workshop in the back of the building with plenty of space for all her tools.

“It has been a great relationship, one that’s beneficial for everyone,” Kelly offered. “We just finished having a nice discussion with everyone, those are fun talks. We let each other know how our work is progressing. It’s nice to be able to compare notes with other creative people.”

Kelly turns back to her work bench and wipes some of the metal filings away.

“Plus, we have room to get messy,” she laughed.

Another of those creative people is Tasha Vockrodt, a graphic designer who has been at Bonfire for the past year. Her work station is by the front window, looking out to Johnson Drive. Like Kelly, she had worked at home before hearing about Bonfire.

“I did freelance work, and it was just too quiet,” Tasha

Continued on next page



Tasha Vockrodt is a graphic designer who used to work from home and has been applying her craft at Bonfire for the past year.

revealed. "It felt like I was just doing a job. It wasn't until I actually came to Bonfire that work got fun again. I really enjoy collaborating with this group."

In another room is a display area filled with locally made clothes. Hanging on one clothes rack is a red shirt with the initials LA, KC and NY surrounded in a heart, a yellow shirt with waves printed on it hangs nearby while another blue shirt is inscribed with "Dream Again." In this nautical like room you can almost

## BONFIRE AT NIGHT

Bonfire, a "Create Space" in Mission, occasionally hosts evening concerts, which help get their name out.

"This place looks really cool at night," said owner Rusty Wright. "You really get the living room feel we wanted. We knew we wanted our space to be comfortable. I'm here so much, this is my second home."

For more information on Bonfire visit [www.bonfirespace.com](http://www.bonfirespace.com).



smell the ocean.

This is the home of Ocean & Sea, a nautical clothing company with a Midwest twist. Established by Brendan and Amanda O'Shaughnessy in 2013, they describe their store as a "landlocked sailboat," and call Kansas City the "Port of the Plains." In addition to shirts, hats and onesies they also sell mugs, coasters, wall displays and other lifestyle items. Though they have a seafaring theme, they love their somewhat dryer home.

"We feel immersed in Mission, we love it here," Brendon said. "When Amanda and I started Ocean & Sea we were working out of our apartment, taking online orders and scared we would be isolated. I was friends with Rusty and he told me they were putting together the artist space. We were immediately very interested."

Ocean & Sea has been making waves with their online store as they continue to grow.

"Bonfire has been extremely helpful as we have been making more products," Brendan said. "We've received a lot of support from the other business owners; you find help all around you at Bonfire."

Brendan said he feels Bonfire mirrors the communal environment of Mission itself.

"There are other art spaces in Kansas City but this one feels more intimate," Brendan said. "You are not just coming to work, this feels like a family."

### CREATIVE FUEL

There is a wide variety of professionals working from Bonfire, including Matt Adams, a developer for Young Life. Another Bonfire renter is Maura Coleman, a filmmaker with Creative Films KC.

"We don't look for any certain type of person or artist," Jason said. "When we meet people, we just know they are a match for us."

Rusty and Jason stress cooperation as the true core of Bonfire. Even though they are both wedding photographers, they said there is no competition between them.

"There is enough work for everyone, we only try to help each other," Rusty explained.

The collaborative nature is the fuel that keeps Bonfire burning.

"These are some of the most talented people I have ever met," Rusty said. "That can only make you better."





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# CITY OF MISSION

## Newsletter

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2017  
VOLUME 12, ISSUE 5  
WWW.MISSIONKS.ORG



## YOU CAN SAVE A LIFE!



Johnson County HeartSafe Foundation is a not-for-profit 501c3 that initially started as a community initiative to train 25,000 Johnson County citizens in Hands-Only CPR. The foundation partners with local agencies and companies in an effort to: increase the awareness of and education in CPR, improve the public's access to AEDs and educate them in their use, and recognize community CPR success. HeartSafe surpassed their original goal, and is now working to train 50,000 Johnson County citizens in this technique.

Heart disease is the number one killer of men and women in the United States and 70-80% of cardiac arrest calls happen at home. During the training you will learn:

- How cardiac arrest differs from a heart attack
- Why it is so important to call 9-1-1

- What is bystander CPR and why is it so important
- What is Hands-Only CPR and how is it different from traditional CPR methods
- How to recognize cardiac arrest
- How to perform Hands-Only CPR and use an Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

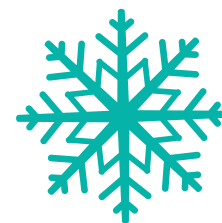
Everyone is encouraged to learn this important, life-saving technique. The training is free and takes only about an hour, so please consider scheduling a session for your group: businesses, volunteer organizations, churches, book clubs, youth sports teams, schools, neighborhood associations – the list goes on and on!

**Consolidated Fire District 2 is our area HeartSafe program partner. To schedule training call 913-432-1105 or email [contactus@cfld2.org](mailto:contactus@cfld2.org).**



### CITY STAFF & VOLUNTEERS COMPLETE RED CROSS SHELTER TRAINING

In October, city staff, board and commission volunteers participated in emergency shelter training at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center. In the event of a natural disaster or other emergency, the Community Center is equipped and prepared to serve as an American Red Cross emergency public shelter. The American Red Cross would have primary responsibility for the operation of the shelter, with our trained volunteers assisting with the sheltering activities. If needed, the shelter would provide food services and sleeping facilities in addition to other basic shelter services.



### CHECK OUT OUR GREAT CLASSES THIS WINTER!

Mission's Parks & Recreation Winter Activity Guide will be available for pick-up after November 22nd at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center. Or, visit our website at [missionks.org](http://missionks.org) – our Parks & Recreation information is available under the "Play" tab. See you at the Center!



Dear Friends and Neighbors,  
For the last four years it has been my honor to serve as your Mayor. I've always been proud of our City, but over these last few years, I've come to appreciate what a truly amazing community of residents and businesses we have. During my time in office, I've done my best to complete the campaign promises I made when I ran for office, and I've

tried to represent the City to the best of my abilities. It has been both a humbling and rewarding experience.

I've tried to keep my priorities simple and straightforward. I believe your City government serves you best when it can operate that way. I have been fortunate to serve with Council members over the last 3+ years who shared many of the same goals and ideas. I would like to thank each one for the work they do to keep Mission moving forward. We all take pride in listening to our constituents' ideas and concerns, and turning them into action.

I have also had the pleasure of getting to know and work alongside many volunteers who serve our City in different ways - some on boards and commissions recommending initiatives and policies to Council, some at our Farm & Flower Market and city-sponsored events, some pitching in during neighborhood clean-up events or raking leaves and shoveling snow for neighbors, and others donating time and resources to assist families during the holidays through our Holiday Family Adoption Program. Our community is a better place because of the time and talents they contribute.

There are so many things we've accomplished together during my time in office - too many to include here. However, anyone who knows me knows that safety will always be my top priority. I was happy to be a part of not only lowering the speed limit on Johnson Drive, and improving pedestrian crossings, but most importantly was approving the installation of a traffic signal at Woodson and Johnson Drive. The signal should be installed and operating by the end of the year.

As I get ready to leave office, I am encouraged for the future, especially the prospect of new developments on the horizon. Both the Mission Trails apartment project and the Gateway project promise to bring long term benefits for our City.

Plowing snow, maintaining our streets, supporting our local businesses, these have all been important to me during my time as Mayor. But it was the question I got from a 3rd grader recently that really summed it all up for me. He asked, "Mr. Mayor, do you have fun in your job?" It caught me a little off guard, but was a great reminder that this job should be fun, serious, but fun. I'm pleased to say I could answer this young man's question with a resounding "YES!" So I thank my wife and family who allowed me the time to serve, and each one of you who has made this an experience I will never forget.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you on December 1 at the lighting of the Mayor's Christmas Tree and our annual festival at the Community Center. Thank you again for the opportunity to serve as your Mayor, and I will continue to pray for God's goodness on the City of Mission in the years ahead.

Sincerely,  
Steve Schowengerdt  
Mayor

## FALL YARD MAINTENANCE REMINDERS

Fall is here and so are the leaves in the yard. When doing yard maintenance, please remember the following:

- The number of yard waste bags increases to 12 in November/December to help you manage leaves. Yard waste will continue to be picked up on your scheduled trash day.
- **Leaves may not be raked in the street.** Residents who place leaves in the street will be notified by Neighborhood Services to remove them.
- K-State Research & Extension recommends mowing leaves with a mulching mower - this can save time and help keep your yard healthy.

If you have questions or concerns about property maintenance or trash/recycling and yard waste, please contact Neighborhood Services at 913-676-8360.



Mayor Schowengerdt and the City Council recently recognized United Community Services (UCS) for 50 years of providing Johnson County residents with access to human and social services. Accepting the proclamation were Julie Brewer, UCS Executive Director, Mike Hockley, UCS Board President, and Brian Brown, UCS Board Member. For more information on UCS, see their website at: [www.ucsjoco.org](http://www.ucsjoco.org).





## LOCK YOUR CAR KEEP IT SAFE

In recent months, Mission has seen an increase in the number of auto burglaries. One thing that the majority of these crimes have in common is that the doors to the vehicles were left unlocked. Leaving vehicles unsecured makes them a prime target for thieves who are free to enter your car without making any noise at all.

Locking the doors isn't a guarantee that thieves won't target your vehicle, but the statistics tell us that locked car doors make a difference. Before locking your car doors, remember to remove valuables from your vehicle (especially firearms), do not leave your keys in your vehicle, and call 911 to report suspicious activity to the Police Department immediately.



## SUSTAINABILITY CORNER TIPS FROM YOUR SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Would you like to make your holidays a little greener this year? During the holiday season, the volume of household waste in the United States generally increases 25 percent between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. Decorations, gift wrap and packaging all contribute. Here are a few tips from the Mission Sustainability Commission on adding sustainable practices to your holidays:

- Give the gift of experiences such as gift cards for food and entertainment, tickets to a show, or a membership to a museum or zoo.
- Use durable (not disposable) dishware at your holiday parties.
- Recycle cans and containers at your curbside pick-up.
- Recycle glass at a near-by drop-off location. Find locations at: [www.rippleglass.com](http://www.rippleglass.com).
- Remember, your broken or unwanted Christmas lights can be recycled! Find a drop-off location at: [www.southeastenterprises.org/kcrecyclelights](http://www.southeastenterprises.org/kcrecyclelights).

*\*Select tips from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the Mid-America Regional Council Solid Waste District*



## THINK GREEN!

Mission recently received a "Think Green" grant from Waste Management to assist with the funding of our new "Adopt-A-Street" program. This program provides opportunities for residents and civic organizations to adopt a section of one or more of our City's streets. Participants will help keep Mission beautiful by picking up litter on a regular basis in the public right-of-way. Clubs, churches, organizations and other groups are encouraged to apply. To register for this program, or for more information, contact Neighborhood Services at 913-676-8360. You and your friends, co-workers or neighbors can make a real difference in Mission!

## PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE EVENT

December 7, 2017 | 11:45 a.m.

Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center  
6200 Martway / 913-722-8200

## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEING A MARKET VENDOR?

Have you ever been curious about selling at the Mission Farm and Flower Market? Come to our vendor information session to learn how! If you bake, have a garden, or make a delicious product that more people should know about, consider hosting a booth. The market is the perfect place to try your ideas, get direct customer feedback, and have a great time meeting new people.



Mission's Market is flexible and affordable: vendors are welcome to sign up by the week as schedules allow and stall fees are \$20/week with discounts for pre-payment.

We'll cover topics like stall set-up, market promotions, how to handle sales tax, and staff will be available for any questions to get you ready for the 2018 season!

JANUARY 9TH AT 6 P.M. LOCATION TBD.

This event is free, but registration is required at [market@missionks.org](http://market@missionks.org) or 913-676-8368.

## HANDLEBAR HAPPY HOUR & BIKE DRIVE

Thursday, November 16, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

We're doing it again! The City of Mission and BikeWalkKC will co-host our second happy hour at The Bar, 6101 Johnson Drive, on Thursday, November 16th. All are welcome so please plan to join us! This is a great opportunity to talk cycling and connect with other area cyclists. We'll also be accepting bike donations, so bring your used or unwanted bicycles. Donated bicycles will be cleaned and repaired, and given to the City's adopted families for the holidays or to BikeWalkKC's Earn-A-Bike program. Donations are tax-deductible.

For more information, contact Emily Randel at [erandel@missionks.org](mailto:erandel@missionks.org) or 913-676-8368.



### MISSION CITY HALL

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Phone: 913-676-8350 • Fax: 913-722-1415 • [www.missionks.org](http://www.missionks.org)

#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

1st Wednesday every month, 6:30 p.m.  
(overflow business considered on the second Wednesday  
of the month as necessary, 6:30 p.m.)

#### CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

#### COUNCIL WORKSESSIONS

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

*All meetings are open to the public.*

### GOVERNING BODY

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

#### COUNCILMEMBERS WARD I

Tom Geraghty .....816-808-8512  
Pat Quinn .....913-207-3106

#### COUNCILMEMBERS WARD II

Arcie Rothrock .....913-568-2872  
Nick Schlossmacher .....913-788-6425

#### COUNCILMEMBERS WARD III

Kristin Inman .....816-510-7698  
Debbie Kring .....913-722-6901

#### COUNCILMEMBERS WARD IV

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





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**AFTER**

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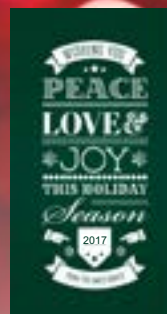
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# Mission Bulletin Board



## Bikes Wanted!

Do you have a bike you don't need anymore? Donate it to the Mission Family Holiday Adoption Program!

Bikes can be dropped off from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 16, at BikeWalkKC's Handlebar Happy Hour & Bike Drive at The Bar, 6101 Johnson Drive.

Once bikes are cleaned and repaired, they will be given to the City's adopted families at the holidays, or distributed through BikeWalkKC's community programs. Donations are tax deductible. For more information, call 913-676-8368.

Drop off your bike, then stay for a drink or some food and meet people interested in cycling!

## Happy Anniversary

This October, Mission's Acendas Travel celebrated its 35th anniversary in business. Acendas Travel ranks as one of the top travel providers in the Midwest and in the top 50 nationally. Congratulations for 35 successful years!



## Thanksgiving Concert For Human Need

Friday, Nov. 17, 2017 | 7:30-9 p.m.

Countryside Christian Church  
6101 Nall Avenue

Benefiting Human Need Ministries in the Kansas City area, the concert will feature timeless classics, modern works, spirituals, gospels and special guest tenor Gabe Combs.

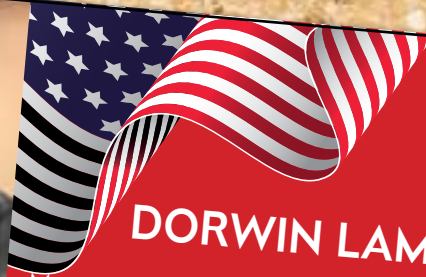


## THANKS SMN STUCCO!

Shawnee Mission North Student Council raised \$2,800 at its annual fundraising picnic and donated it to Mission's Holiday Adoption Program. SMN Student Body President Cameron Peck (far right) said the project was chosen as the 2017 recipient of the funds as a way for Stucco to give back to a program that has assisted some of their fellow students. Shown with Cameron are Mission Mayor Steve Schowengerdt (from left), SMN Principal David Tappan and Councilmember Suzie Gibbs.



# Mission Bulletin Board



## DORWIN LAMKIN DAY

Mayor Steve Schowengerdt (right), proclaimed Sept. 20, 2017, Dorwin Lamkin Day in Mission, Kansas. The proclamation, presented at a luncheon at Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center, lauded his service as a Navy veteran of World War II who "worked tirelessly to establish Pearl Harbor Memorial Park in Mission" and for his participation in the city's annual Pearl Harbor Day event. A longtime Mission resident, Lamkin, 94, now lives at Brookdale Shawnee.



## CANS FOR GOOD!

If every Mission resident donated five cans of vegetables/fruit for our Mission/Northeast Johnson County residents, we could supply each of our adopted families with enough food for a month. Don't forget to put some extra cans, and maybe some cereal, too, in your cart the next time you go shopping and give it to the Family Holiday Adoption program for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Donation barrels are available at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center and area businesses.



## • THANKS FOR SENIORS •

Thursday, Nov. 16  
11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center  
Join the City of Mission for a special Thanksgiving tribute to the seniors of Northeast Johnson County and their contributions to the community. The cost is \$12 per person and includes a traditional Thanksgiving feast. Musical entertainment will be provided.  
Call 913-722-8200 to register.

## Uplifting Help

Cold weather will soon be here and the folks served by Uplift Organization Inc. will be in need of socks, tents, candles, blankets, sweatshirts, gloves, books, hats, matches, sweaters and coats. The Uplift truck will be in the north parking lot of the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center from 8 a.m. to noon on Thursday, Nov. 17. Clean your closets, load up your cars and help us help Uplift!





Coach Dre Carnegie (left) and Shawnee Mission Rotary Club member Wayne London in Shawnee Mission North's One Stop Shop. The Rotary Club helped with renovating the space for the new school year.



## SHAWNEE MISSION NORTH AND SHAWNEE MISSION ROTARY CLUB TEAM UP TO BRING ONE STOP SHOP TO STUDENTS

BY KRIS BAKER • PHOTOS BY CATHY DONOVAN

Everyone needs a helping hand once in a while. Thanks to the assistance and hard work of the Shawnee Mission Rotary Club and Shawnee Mission School District representatives, students at Shawnee Mission North have a renovated one stop place where they can find a needed boost along with a friendly smile.

The One Stop Shop in Shawnee Mission North was created as a safe location for at-risk students to come by and get food, drinks, clothes and other items all donated from community efforts. The idea for the One Stop Shop came from Coach Dre Carnegie, Shawnee Mission Student Success Liaison and student life coach. In this position, he became familiar with the many challenges these at-risk students were facing.

"I thought about a place where students could stop in and pick up items they don't have access to at home," Coach Dre recalled. "If you are worried about having enough to eat, it is impossible to learn and enjoy your time at school."

The One Stop Shop started as a closet stocked with just a few simple items and has grown into an entire room with shelves filled with food, lunch boxes, personal hygiene products, a refrigerator with cool drinks and a closet full of donated clothes. Much of this project's expansion can be credited to North's partnership with the Shawnee Mission Rotary Club.

"When we heard about this we knew we had to get involved," Rotary member Wayne London explained. "We were looking for a new project that was worthwhile. They made their presentation, it was very impressive and we knew immediately we had found what we were looking for."

The Rotary group rolled up their sleeves and got to work. Money was raised and volunteers spent the Saturday before school started painting the new shop in North's colors, laying carpet and putting together new furniture. Initially, money for the groceries came from a "Grocery Store Grab" fundraiser, in partnership with Mission Hy-Vee. Half of the remodeling was paid for by the Shawnee Mission North Class of '62. The One Stop Shop is the only one of its kind in the school district and could be difficult to replicate. "The work of Coach Dre has made this possible. This room couldn't exist if not for him," said Emily Randel, president of Shawnee Mission Rotary Club. "The Rotary is just glad to be able to help."

Coach Dre said the need of the One Stop Shop reflects an economic reality found throughout the district.

"We are open to everyone, no questions asked," Coach Dre said. "The One Stop Shop is a safe place, something that is becoming more needed all the time; it's something we can all benefit from."

**"WHEN WE HEARD ABOUT THIS WE KNEW WE HAD TO GET INVOLVED."**

**-SHAWNEE MISSION ROTARY MEMBER WAYNE LONDON**





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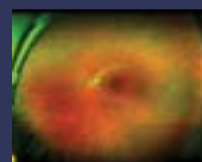
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Jason R. Pingel, O.D. - Doctor of Optometry



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Bob and Melanie McDaniel share a bite of the award-winning pies at Village Inn.



# VILLAGE INN HAS A WINNING RECIPE FOR *Old School Values*

Mission restaurant serves up bonding time for the whole family

By Kris Baker | Photos by Cathy Donovan



Grandpa sits at the head of the table while grandma tends to the baby. Mom tells the kids to put their phones away while Dad passes menus around. Everyone is seated and hungry. Bob McDaniel walks by and says hello to everyone at the table. He knows the whole family by name and asks the kids about school before moving on.

Across the restaurant a group of co-workers each order their favorite slice of pie. Melanie McDaniel watches and laughs as the table compares notes about why their pie is superior.

There are still places for the whole family to come together and have a quality meal in a friendly atmosphere. There are still places where friends and co-workers can grab an old-fashioned meal; there are still places where you can get breakfast any time of the day. One of those places is Village Inn at 5800 Broadmoor St.

Village Inn is a diner-style family restaurant known for their wide selection of pies. Their yellow and orange sign overlooking Johnson Drive has become a city landmark. Like Don Chilito's across the street, Village Inn has become a foundation of the restaurant scene in Mission. Owners Bob and Melanie McDaniel revealed that Village Inn has established itself through strong word of mouth and a high volume of repeat customers. They have worked hard to ensure that their Village Inn location retains the family feel the restaurant is known for. When the corporate office of Village Inn suggested they add Wi-Fi and television, Bob and Melanie said **NO**.

"We pushed against that, it wasn't right for us," Melanie said, referring to putting Wi-Fi and televisions in the restaurant. "That is not why our customers come here. When grandpa and grandma bring their kids here, they don't want them on their devices or watching television. They want to talk to them and see their faces. They want to share the experience with them. That is what eating out is about."

"You want to stay current but you don't want to change your culture," Bob added. "Every change we make we ask ourselves 'is this right for Mission, Kansas?' We have to decide what is right for our customers."

Village Inn has been about those shared experiences since opening in Mission in 1971. Over the years the holiday seasons have become particularly special. A lot of business during the holidays are people ordering pies. Last Thanksgiving Village Inn sold over 800 pies, with more than 300 pumpkin pies sold.

The restaurant is open 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thanksgiving and 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Christmas Eve; the only day it is closed during the year is Christmas.

## IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Village Inn brings people together as the franchise is responsible for Bob and Melanie meeting.

Bob has always worked in the restaurant industry, which he calls a people business. When he was young he met Joe Gilbert, who was considered the dean of Kansas City restaurateurs and co-founder of Gilbert-Robinson Inc., which at one time operated 66 restaurants across the United States. Joe offered Bob a position as a assistant manager at a local restaurant where he worked his way up to regional director. After leaving Gilbert-Robinson, Bob worked in several other restaurant concepts, winding up

in Denver, Colorado, as a franchise field consultant for Village Inn. Through Village Inn he met Melanie, who was working out of Cedar Falls, Iowa, and had begun working for the restaurant chain as a server while attending college.

"Village Inn is the only grown up job I have ever had," Melanie said. "Working at Village Inn has given me a great life."

Bob and Melanie married and began managing the franchises together. Overseeing 10 different restaurants was a tall order, so they came up with a new plan. Bob, a Kansas City, Missouri, native, knew of the Village Inn in Mission and had always wanted to work there.

"After managing 10 restaurants, owning just one sounded like a dream," Bob reminisced. "We knew this is the one we wanted to own."

Bob and Melanie bought the franchise in 1996 and started operating the restaurant day-

-to-day in 2000. Many of their employees have worked at that

location as long or longer, including general manager Renee Baze and kitchen manager Todd Stanard. Todd has been a kitchen manager with Village Inn for over 30 years.

"We keep it old school; all the food items are the original recipes they started with back in 1958," Todd explained.

"We may try a few new things with our cooks that come from corporate, but we really look at what is popular here locally. Our first rule is to stay concentrated on making good food.

"Whether I worked here or not I would still come here," Todd said. "I have eaten the food here most of my life and I still enjoy it. I love the food here."

Continued on next page

**"WORKING AT VILLAGE INN HAS GIVEN ME A GREAT LIFE."**

**-MELANIE MCDANIEL**



- The Village Inn in Mission serves more than 4,000 guests each week and sells 40 to 70 pies each week.
- All their pies are made fresh daily.
- About 60 percent of what they serve are breakfast items.
- The first Village Inn in the country opened in 1958 as a pancake house.
- Village Inn has more than 200 locations across the Midwest, the Rocky Mountain region, Arizona, Florida and Alaska.
- The Village Inn restaurants and its pie-baking subsidiary Bakers Square and Legendary Baking use 650,000 lbs of Philadelphia Cream Cheese.



## A VILLAGE AND A FAMILY

Max Murray comes into Village Inn at least three or four times a week. Max is 93 and said he has been coming here since it opened.

"The food is always good, its clean and the wait staff is courteous," Max offered. "Most places start good and then deteriorate; this place has gotten better over the years."

Max lives about a 10-minute drive away and comes for both lunch and dinner. For dessert his favorite is the banana cream pie.

At a nearby table Jack Belshe and his friend Rosalie Withers enjoy their lunch. He lives in Lenexa while she lives in Shawnee, however they still come to the Mission Village Inn at least once a week.

"We make coming here an outing all summer long," Jack said.

"We love it here," Rosalie agreed.

After their meals, Jack orders the French silk pie while Rosalie requests the lemon meringue.

"When we meet someone around Kansas City, they know about our Village Inn in Mission. A lot of customers think it's the only one there is," Melanie said. "We are so lucky to have our customers. They are like family to us."

Bob and Melanie have always tried to make strong family ties part of the recipe at Village Inn. Todd's granddaughter started as a hostess and is now a waitress. Village Inn has reached out to its larger Mission family by donating pies to Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center and pancake batter to the Boy Scouts.

"It's part of treating people how we would want to be treated," Melanie commented. "We are known for our pies, but more than that we want to be known for our hospitality."





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# SHAWNEE MISSION NORTH STUDENT AIMS FOR HIGHEST POSITION IN THE STATE

BY KRIS BAKER

PHOTO BY CATHY DONOVAN

**Y**ou are never too young to get involved in politics, just ask Tyler Ruzich. Tyler, a junior at Shawnee Mission North, is embarking on the biggest campaign of his life. He is not running for class president, and he is not trying to drum up votes for Homecoming king, Tyler has officially entered the race to become governor of the state of Kansas.

"I have always been involved in politics. Since I was 5 years old, I wanted to run for president," Tyler admitted. "By running I want to show that young people can get involved, and that we can make a difference. People say that millennials and the younger generation don't care, but I know many of us do care."

Kansas and Vermont are the only two states in America that do not have age requirements to run for governor. When Tyler discovered this, he decided the learning opportunity was too great to pass up. Of course, he had to tell his parents first, who were not surprised.

"When I would tell people I was running for governor they would usually say, 'That's such a Tyler thing to do.' But my family and friends have been very supportive. A lot of fellow students are organizing a get out to vote campaign right now."

Tyler is looking to win the Republican nomination, meaning he will be up against established politicians like governor-in-waiting Jeff Colyer and Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach. Tyler said he has some qualities that may give him an advantage over his more experienced opponents.

"With youth comes fresh ideas, and a new way to approach problems that might not have been tried before," Tyler said. "We have different ways to reach people, like strong social media skills.... I want to be a Republican for the next generation."

There is another candidate running for governor who is even younger than Tyler. Wichita student Jack Bergeson is running for the Democratic nomination. Jack is a friend of Tyler's and gave Tyler the inspiration to run.

"Jack said he could run as a Democrat and I would run as a Republican, and we could fire up the race," Tyler explained. "It sends a message that young people can be represented."

Tyler does have one important advantage over his young competitor. Come the 2018 election, Tyler will be old enough to vote for himself, Jack will not.

Whether he will be moving to the governor's mansion or a dorm room for his first year of college next year, Tyler knows this is a winning experience.

"Just filling out the application to run was a learning experience," Tyler said. "It's important to learn the process, and the goal of my campaign is to help young people learn more about the process. It's vital to be an educated voter and know where the candidates stand on the issues. When young people know the process better, they know they will be able to have an impact on the system."





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**January 9**

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# A TIME TO *Share with others*



## Mission's Family Holiday Adoption program brings community together at Thanksgiving and Christmas



**I**t's a common misconception that there's no poverty in Johnson County. In fact, the number of people living below the poverty line in our county is growing. According to United Community Services in Johnson County, nearly 1 in 20 people lived below the poverty line in 2008 and that number grew to nearly 1 in 15 people by 2014, the most current statistics available.

Mission City Councilwoman Suzie Gibbs has seen the numbers rise as well. When Mission's Family Holiday Adoptions Program began in 2010, eight families had their holiday wish lists fulfilled. Last year, fueled by the generosity of community businesses and individuals, more than 70 families were helped by the program. Families were treated to gift baskets enabling them to have Thanksgiving and Christmas meals with all the trimmings and wrapped Christmas gifts to help them celebrate the joys of the season.

Every year, Suzie is awed both by the response to help from the Mission community and the thanks the City gets from the recipients.

"You can't imagine how grateful these families are for the little help we are giving them at Thanksgiving and Christmas. For some, what we give them is the only holiday they will have," Suzie said. "In turn, we are so thankful for those who donate food, money and their time to help us with this project.

It's puts everyone in the true holiday spirit."







# ..... Want to help? .....



## THANKSGIVING GIVING:

Barrels are currently set up at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center to collect non-perishables such as canned vegetables, cereal, boxed potatoes and dessert mixes.

Volunteers will assemble and deliver food baskets on Monday, Nov. 20 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Community Center.

## UPLIFT TRUCK:

On Thursday, Nov. 17, from 8 a.m. to noon, there will be an Uplift truck in the north parking lot of the Community Center. Uplift, an organization that helps the homeless, needs gently used, clean clothing for adults, blankets, candles, matches, books, sleeping bags, coats, hats, gloves and shoes.

## WHITE SOCKS FOR THE HOMELESS!

Each year the City of Mission partners with St. Michael's Men in Ministry to supply white socks to the homeless. The Community Center will have a Christmas tree located near the north entrance where you may drop off your socks. Deadline is Nov. 20.

## CHRISTMAS:

Each adopted family is asked to supply their wish list for Christmas gifts. By Thanksgiving, tags will adorn the Christmas trees attached to the wall at the Community Center. You may go to the center and pick out as many tags as you like, or you may contact Kathy Lockard (913-722-8206) and adopt a whole family. Canned goods and monetary donations will also be accepted.

Wrapping gifts, assembling baskets and delivering items will be from 8 a.m. to finish on Wednesday, Dec. 20.

## MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS:

The City has partnered with the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation to allow donations for the holiday adoptions to be tax deductible through a 501(c)(3) arrangement. Corporate matching funds may also be accepted. For more information, contact Laura Smith at [lsmith@missionks.org](mailto:lsmith@missionks.org). Checks should be made payable to The City of Mission Charitable Fund.

**For additional questions contact  
Suzie Gibbs at 913-671-8564.**

## Holiday Lights and Festive Sights



The holidays are right around the corner, and the City of Mission is ready to kick them off with its annual Holiday Lights and Festive Sights event. Please join us from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1, for an evening of family fun in and around the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center (6200 Martway).

Outside you will enjoy free carriage rides, music from local school choirs, hot chocolate and roasting marshmallows around fire pits for s'mores. Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive at 5:15 p.m., just in time to help Mayor Steve Schowengerdt flip the switch and light the Mayor's Christmas Tree!

But the fun doesn't stop there. We invite you to spend the evening with us as you explore the Community Center as part of "Free Family Fun Night." Santa and Mrs. Claus will greet children and listen to Christmas wish lists from 5:45 p.m. until 8 p.m. Music performances continue throughout the evening featuring choirs from Shawnee Mission North, Bishop Miege, Hocker Grove Middle School, Rushton and Highlands elementary schools.

There will be balloon artists, a holiday craft area, indoor playground and open swim — something for everyone to enjoy. Free hotdogs, chips and soda mean you don't have to worry about dinner for the night. You can also enjoy the movie *The Polar Express* (with popcorn, of course!) beginning at 6 p.m.

Mark your calendar now, this is an event you won't want to miss. We'll look forward to seeing you Dec. 1!



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# Holiday Lights — and — Festive Sights



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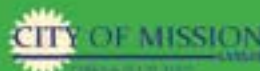
## Musical Performances By:

- 5:15 - 5:30 p.m. Shawnee Mission North Choir
- 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. Natalie Parish
- 5:35 - 5:50 p.m. Hocker Grove Elementary Choir
- 5:45 - 6:05 p.m. Bishop Miege Choir
- 5:45 - 8:00 p.m. Chriss Scherer
- 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. Rushton Elementary Choir
- 7:10 - 7:30 p.m. Highlands Elementary Choir

## Additional Entertainment:

- Mr. & Mrs. Claus
- Carriage Rides
- S'mores & Hot Chocolate
- Balloon Artists

## Mayor's Lighting of the Christmas Tree at 5:15 p.m.



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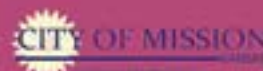
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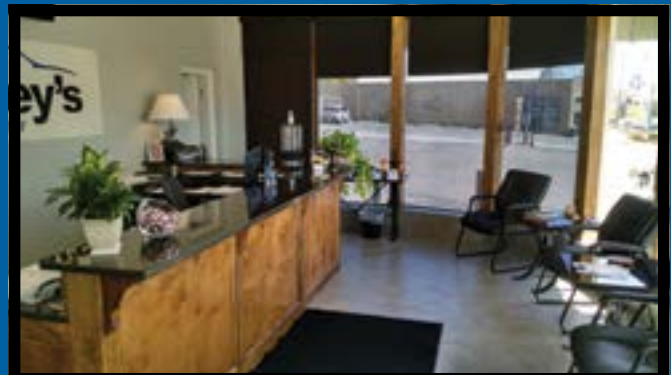
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