The construction progress at the Gateway site has been highlighted in stories this week in the KC Star and the SM Post as well as our own social media. This is an interior view of the Cinergy building. Complete and updated project details are available on the website.

Did you know you could sign up to receive an electronic newsletter from Johnson County Mental Health? What a great community resource including access to podcasts and other relevant information. A recent edition encouraged everyone to check out the year end podcast It's Okay if You're not Okay, with new episodes on "unlearning loneliness" and New Year's Resolutions. For more information or to subscribe, visit the website at: jocogov.org/mentalhealth

Parks and Recreation recently hosted a membership “blitz” to kick-off the new year. The promotion brought 40 new members to the Center and resulted in the renewal of 66 current memberships. The Department will continue to experiment with various promotions to increase memberships.

A friendly reminder that Mission is proud to host the Chamber’s “We’re Talkin’ Tuesday” events the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at the Community Center. Join them at 8 a.m. for great programs and networking!
Weekly Top 5

- Staff had a kick-off meeting this week with the Confluence team to start to build the schedule and process for moving forward with the update to the Comprehensive Plan. We will look forward to sharing a more detailed update next week.

- There are still spots available in the next Citizen’s Police Academy. The 10-week program will run Thursday evenings from March 3 through May 7. Anyone interested in participating should contact Sgt. Rob Meyers at (913) 676-8333.

- Johnson County/UCS have officially awarded the contract for the housing inventory to RDG Planning and Design. UCS has also secured grant funding to support the work of a housing task force that will be formed. Laura will continue to be associated with this work, serving as a member of the Technical Support Committee who will work alongside RDG.

- Work with Confluence started this week on the conceptual planning for Mohawk Park. We will be sharing their work soon, and making it accessible to our residents as we move into the public engagement portions of the project.

- Looking forward to the Mayor’s presentation next week at the NEJC Chamber’s “State of the Cities” luncheon.

In a January 15 worksession, the City Council heard a pre-session legislative update from Stuart Little of LGR. The City has engaged LGR through the 2020 session so that we can become more actively engaged in issues being discussed in Topeka and looking for effective ways to advance the policies and programs of interest to Mission.

The City adopts Legislative Priorities each year and several members of the City Council will be attending the LKM Local Government Days next week to meet with our legislators in person to highlight the 2020 program. A copy of the 2020 Legislative Priorities, along with contact information for Mission’s elected representatives is available on the City’s website. You may also contact your Councilmember directly with issues or ideas.

This week, the City joined with nine other communities in the metro area to become a SevenDays® Supportive City in 2020. The SevenDays initiative is the work of the Faith Always Wins Foundation whose work grew out of the tragic shooting incidents at the Jewish Community Center in 2014. The 2020 event will will take place April 21-27 with many events across the metro.

By agreeing to be an official SevenDays® Supportive City, we commit to being a community where kindness is key and understanding is paramount. There is no cost to participate, and Mission will help to support activities throughout the City during this week. For more information about the SevenDays® initiative and the Faith Always Wins Foundation, please visit their website at: givesevendays.org, and watch for more information on activities and events in the coming months!

WCA Waste of Kansas City will be running regular routes for residential customers next week. There will be no delay observed for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday in Mission. For more information on services visit: wcawaste.com/mission-kansas.

The Mission Project Board of Directors hosted its 2020 Annual Report Meeting this week and gave special recognition to several individuals who have helped participants and the organization thrive over the last 16 years. Natalie Lucas, rental coordinator at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center, was the recipient of the Community Partner Award. Natalie has been a huge advocate and support for the participants at the Mission Project for many years. She also volunteers her time and talents at Mission Project fund raisers. Aside from her bright smile and warm hugs, the participants say they love spending time with Natalie at Club MP, a monthly group that includes fun outings around KC and movie nights. THANK YOU, NATALIE! You are an amazing member of the Mission Project family and a wonderful ambassador for the City of Mission.