Today marked the last day of operations for Johnny’s Bar-B-Q at the corner of Broadmoor and Martway. After 37 years of service to our community, we wish him all the best in retirement. The Council will recognize Johnny at the February 19 City Council meeting at 7 p.m.

There’s been no shortage of support for our KC Chiefs this week all around Mission. From the students at Highlands, the Mission Market, or the City Hall Red Friday celebration we are ready for Sunday’s big game!

Emily Randel spoke both on behalf of the City and as a transit rider at the Johnson County Board of County Commissioners Business Meeting Thursday. The issue was whether to open a 30 day public comment period on a proposed reduction of some of the least utilized fixed route bus service in the county following the 2018 Comprehensive Operations Analysis. The money would be reallocated to expanding micro-transit service.

Emily spoke in support of fixed route bus service as the best approach to support workforce transportation with reliable schedules for daily commuters. Fixed routes help to manage cost of living in the county and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Mission also has an interest in maintaining the relevance of the Mission Transit Center and the Shawnee Mission Parkway/Mission Transit corridor.

Emily will be working with Joshua Powers from the County staff to help encourage participation from Mission residents and employees during the comment period. The vote was 5-2 in support of opening the comment period as presented with Commissioners Fast and Hanzlick voting against.
Weekly Top 5

- Brian Scott attended the second week of two sessions at the GFOA Accounting Academy. This is an intensive course on governmental accounting, auditing and financial reporting.

- Staff members from across all Departments and several Council members celebrated the impending arrival of Cruz Douglas Morton with a “Red Friday” luncheon at City Hall. Cruz’ dad Brent was showered with diapers and books.

- The Mission Police Department hosted “Coffee with a Cop” this morning at the Mission Hy-Vee. The Police Department will be scaling back this particular event in 2020 and looking for new ways to connect with the community to build the relationships that are so vital to our success. Watch for changes coming in future months!

- Brian Scott and Nilo Fanska attended the Johnson County Utility Summit this week. This annual event brings together county employees, city employees, utility companies, and local non-profits for a morning of education and networking. The focus of this year’s Summit was Past|Present|Future with a keynote presentation on where we are now, and where we would like to be in the future.

- Effective February 1, Suzie Gibbs has tendered her resignation as the Special Programs Coordinator for Mission. We will honor Suzie’s work, along with that of the Family Adoption Committee and Mission Magazine editorial board, at the February 19 City Council meeting.

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Time to Vote!

The posters are up at the Community Center for our annual Arbor Day Poster competition hosted for the 5th Grade Students from Rushton Elementary. The posters will be displayed through Monday so please stop by and cast you vote. The top vote-getter will advance to the State completion. It’s always rewarding to see the creativity and commitment of our youth. The posters are phenomenal!

In 2020, we kicked off a new service anniversary recognition program. Each month we will personally recognize employees with a service anniversary that falls within the month. We launched it this past week with great reception and look forward to continuing to find new ways to show employees how much we appreciate their commitment to Mission. Employees with January Service Anniversaries included:

- Abele Bekele - Police (1/8/19)
- Brooke Hagerman - Police (1/16/19)
- Mikayla Vernon - Police (1/2/18)
- Drake Sparks - Police (1/2/18)
- Angel Medina-Correa - Police (1/2/18)
- Zeta Bates - Police (1/2/18)

- Greg Barnett - Police (1/2/18)
- Nick Canaan - Police (1/2/05)
- Ron Ruhulessin - Police (1/8/06)
- Kirk Lane - Police (1/18/02)
- Martha Sumrall - Admin (1/3/00)
- Jay Webb - PW (1/1/99)

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This week we had a 911 call to the Community Center because a patron in the aquatics area passed out upon exiting the hot tub. He regained consciousness and then quickly passed out a second time. Gabriel Garcia (Captain) and Reik Rees (Lifeguard) reacted promptly and professionally, monitoring him while paramedics were contacted.

Following the situation, another family who was in the pool area at the time took the time to approach staff to pass along their impressions regarding the “wonderful” actions of the staff, and the professional attention they provided the patron.

KUDOS to Gabriel and Reik for their quick response and attention to detail. Your work is appreciated!