



Congratulations to our Kansas Forest Service Arbor Day Poster Contest winners: 1st place- Kaitlyn Lockard; 2nd place- Tillie Kuhl; 3rd place- Natalie Ringel (not pictured). Best of luck to Kaitlyn as she moves onto the state competition!

Mohawk Park Public Input Meeting #2



Please mark your calendar for Tuesday, March 24 from 6-8 p.m. at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center for the second public input session on improvements to Mohawk Park.

2020 Legislative Session Updates

In December, Mission entered into a contract with Little Government Relations (LGR) to provide government affairs and advocacy services during the 2020 Legislative Session. LGR not only represents Mission, but also Merriam, Prairie Village and Westwood Hills, allowing for our voices to be joined collectively on issues of common interest.



Through the contract, LGR provides monitoring and reporting on legislation and policy initiatives via a weekly update during the session, as well as undertaking efforts to facilitate communication with members of our legislative delegation, and pursue legislation or amendments—including the development and submission of testimony. Through the first half of the session, LGR has advocated on the following: SB 294 (Tax Lid/Tax policy), HB 2625 (Plastic bag ban), and SB 380 regarding regulation of wireless service providers in the ROW,

There remains a lot to follow as the House and Senate move toward the conclusion of the regular session on Friday, April 3.



Mayor Appletoft and PRT Commission members (and former neighbors) Mark Raduziner and Jacque Gameson were on hand Thursday to help long-time Mission resident Gertrude Stern celebrate her 110th birthday.

Gertrude and her husband were residents of Countryside/Mission for 68 years. When interviewed for the Mission Magazine in 2014 (June/July issue), Mrs. Stern credited her longevity to vitamins and staying busy. We wish her continued health and happiness!

Weekly Top 5

- **Market Coordinators Kate Deacon and Carrie Dickerson attended the “From the Land of Kansas” Farmers Market workshop last week at the K-State Extension office in Olathe. They are excited about new ideas and the connections they made with local farmers and makers. Just 14 more Thursday’s until the 2020 market season.**
- **Kathy Lockard and Janet Moore attended an Administrators Training at Skillpath this week where they learned about tips for improved interactions and communication in the workplace. Kathy brought back books from the training that are available for checkout from her by anyone who is interested.**
- **The City’s website was updated this week with information regarding the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). A podcast from the Johnson County Health Department will be shared via social media next week and we continue to stay connected to local resources to consider messaging and information updates.**
- **Progress at The Locale continues, and pre-leasing tours have begun. Staff has been in contact with the Leasing Manager, Nicole Yates and will be working to schedule a tour for Council/staff in the next couple of weeks. You can visit their website at TheLoJo.com to see updated information on the project.**
- **Next Friday (March 6) will be the last Free Family Fun Night at the Community Center until next fall. Make plans to enjoy this last “hurrah” and invite friends to come experience all the Center has to offer!**



A few fun “Leap Day” Facts for you:

- ◆ Just like the U.S. Presidential elections and the Summer Olympic Games, Leap Year rolls around every four years.
- ◆ Those born on February 29 are considered “leaplings.” Some famous leaplings include: Pope Paul III, Jimmy Dorsey, Dinah Shore, and Tony Robbins.
- ◆ The chances of having a leap year birthday are 1 in 1,461. There are about 4 million people in the world who have been born on February 29.
- ◆ Leap Years don’t always come every four years, because the true length of a solar year is less than 365.25 days. Years evenly divisible by 100 are not leap years unless they are also evenly divisible by 400. For example, 1900 was not a leap year, but 2000 was!
- ◆ One common Leap Day tradition calls for a reverse proposal where a woman proposes to her significant other instead of the other way around. This tradition dates all the way back to 5th Century Ireland.



PIE WITH PENN

Parks and Recreation Director Penn Almoney has two “Pie with Penn” sessions scheduled in March:

March 2 9:30 a.m. (Breakout Room)
March 18 5:00 p.m. (Breakout Room)

The goal is to give patrons an opportunity for an open dialogue with Penn to become better acquainted and to learn about projects and priorities for the Parks and Recreation Department.



At the February meeting, the City Council approved a one-year contract with crux. To develop work with staff in developing and implementing a communication, marketing, branding and PR strategy for the City of Mission. Staff will be meeting next week with members of the crux. team to kick-off the effort and to begin to identify priorities and projects for the action plan.

We look forward to connecting them with the Council soon to begin interviewing for input on goals, objectives, challenges and opportunities. We will share next steps as the plan begins to take shape.



We are pleased to announce the promotion of Jenna Dickman (Parks and Recreation) to the position of Aquatic Facilities Manager. Jenna has been the Aquatics Coordinator since September 2018. She has infused new ideas, organization and excitement into our aquatics programs and areas.

Jenna has approached challenges with a positive attitude, finding creative and appropriate solutions. She leads a team of guards that keep our water safe for residents and patrons. We look forward to celebrating many more of her accomplishments in the years ahead. Congratulations, Jenna!

