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Your Hometown

NOVEMBER 2020

MISSION BUSINESS DISTRICT PUTS MISSION ON THE MAP

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Organist and choirmaster Ken Walker focuses on the familiar during COVID-19





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'WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER'

This year will definitely be one for the record books. As we bring you the final issue of the Mission Magazine in 2020, I think about how our routines and habits have changed in ways we never imagined. Our lives and sometimes even our livelihoods have been dramatically impacted — changed in ways that will shape who we are for months and years to come.

In this issue, we explored how our residents, our business owners, leaders in the faith community and others have adapted to COVID-19. Their experiences are all unique but as you catch a small glimpse of their challenges, you begin to see common threads of persistence, patience and positivity. We all have our own stories to tell, our own experiences with the pandemic that are worth sharing and celebrating as we look for new ways to stay connected.

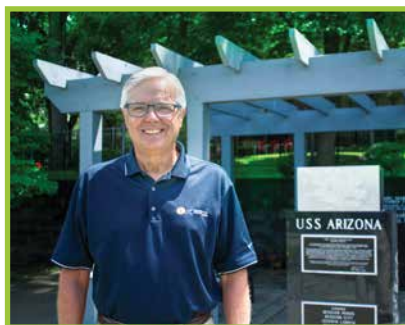
Stories like that of Ken Walker, long-time organist and music director at St. Michael and All Angels' Episcopal Church who continues to create connections through music — even when the sanctuary is empty. He understands the power that music has to heal and to comfort. With a heart for outreach and a hunger for learning, he has helped the members of St. Michael's stay connected in these uncertain times.

Our cover story about the recently revamped Mission Business District group also highlights the importance of connecting our local merchants as they revise their business models to continue to serve their loyal customers.



On the cover:

Taylor "TJ" Roberts and Jennifer "Jenny" Pugh, co-presidents of the Mission Business District. Photo by Denise Elam.



Jenny Pugh and TJ Roberts are both relative newcomers to the Johnson Drive corridor, but they are bringing a sense of fun and a "can-do" attitude in finding ways to support the small businesses that help make Mission more small town than suburb.

And when you read about Mission resident and community volunteer John Arnett, you'll find no shortage of that "can-do" spirit. A retired emergency medical services professional, John exemplifies that staying involved and giving back are important goals for each of us. His story leaves no doubt that service can be simply second nature.

If John's recollections of the early days in Mission interest you, I know you'll find the story about our new virtual history tour just as exciting. Download the Otocast app to your phone and explore some of the rich history of our little City. Complete with photos, GPS locations and narration from some long-time Mission residents, the tour is a great way to spend a couple of hours.

As we head into the holiday season, I am also reminded of the generous support of many who help make the Family Adoption program such a success. I hope you will consider joining us in this important effort — if there's one thing 2020 has taught us, it is that we are all in this together. I am grateful for the chance to continue to share the stories and successes of the amazing people who call Mission home, and look forward to whatever opportunities lie ahead in the New Year.

Ron

-Ron Appletoft, Mayor

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Mission

Your Hometown

NOVEMBER 2020

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'A DESTINATION FOR SHOPPERS'

Mission Business District puts Mission on the map

by Denise Elam



TJ and Jenny shopping in downtown Mission.

The Mission Business Partnership has a new name.

To reflect Mission's changing business culture and enhance marketability for shop owners, the group officially became known as the Mission Business District (MBD) this spring.

"We can now actually tag a location on social media, similar to the Plaza or Westport," said co-President of MBD TJ Roberts. "We're excited for Mission Business District to be a place more than it is an organization or group of people."

The group was created in 2013 by Springboard Creative's Kevin

Fullerton to promote business in Mission and advocate for business owners during the reconstruction of Johnson Drive. Fullerton handed over the reins to Taylor "TJ" Roberts and Jennifer "Jenny" Pugh in May of 2020.

TJ is an insurance agent with Farm Bureau Financial Services and Jenny owns Lulu's Boutique, both located in the heart of downtown Mission.

"We had a real passion for being involved in our community and wanting to help other small businesses and entrepreneurs," TJ said. "We take a lot of pride in our businesses but we also want to take pride in the community aspect as a whole. So adding 'district' gives it a location and makes it a destination for shoppers."

Taking over the MBD during a time of great uncertainty has its challenges. Jenny said an influx of social media followers has helped keep all eyes on shopping local in Mission.

"As small business owners, we feel the need to meet other business owners and let them know that we are here for whatever they need," she said. "If they're having events, we can market those for them on our Mission Business District Facebook page. We've really blown up in the past couple months; we went from a couple hundred followers to 1,400 in three months."

Jenny said their goal is to help Mission businesses thrive. The group plans to continue hosting events like the Johnson Drive Sidewalk Sale and looks forward to creating new outings for shoppers in the future. The MBD plans to incorporate a variety of vendors in future event lineups and feature industries that have been hit the hardest by the pandemic, like the arts and music.

"We want to try to be as inclusive as possible to every single business," TJ said.

Community involvement in MBD events, especially during COVID-19, has been huge.

"I can't say for sure the number, but we had close to 2,500 people come to the Sept. 19 sidewalk sale," TJ said. "Mission police officer Jay Fleer rode his bike near my office and said 'Hey man, we just had to call backup. We didn't know this many people were going to show up.'"

The group hopes to attract other entrepreneurs to the City to create an atmosphere of inclusiveness and growth.



Vendors such as Champagne Washington (owner of Peace in Pain Candles) lined Johnson Drive during the Sidewalk Sale in September.



Musician Mark Brown performs outside Lulu's Boutique during the Sidewalk Sale.

"What's unique about Mission is the small mom and pop shops," TJ said. "You don't get that on the Plaza or Town Center ... in Mission you do. We want to be really proud of that and recognize that."

In November, the MBD hosted a "Holiday Sip and Shop," event, encouraging attendees to visit Mission eateries and shop local for the upcoming holiday season.

Despite a focus on events, the MBD is not just an event planning committee, TJ stressed. It's a resource for business owners and an open line of communication between them and the City.

"What's unique about Mission is the small mom and pop shops. You don't get that on the Plaza or at Town Center ... in Mission you do. We want to be really proud of that and recognize that."

-TJ Roberts

"We will do anything to make sure we're the bridge between the City and the business owner to find a resolution to the issues," TJ said. "We want our doors to be open to anyone who wants to come in and be involved ... we want to do it in a way that's tangible on the relationship-building side. We want to see our business owners do more in the community."

With an uncertain winter due to COVID-19, TJ and Jenny are determined to focus on retail.

"It will have an impact for sure on our small businesses," Jenny said. "Being a retail shop owner,

my busiest months are March through June and then October through December. So we already lost three of those months due to COVID ... but that will definitely affect us again in the winter months."

As soon as the weather allows in the Spring, MBD plans to hit the ground running with as many events as possible. They encourage others to like their Facebook page and share their events and reposts to keep spreading the word about Mission businesses.

"We want to use our platform to be able to help lift, encourage and recognize people during these hard times," TJ said.

As the holidays approach, shopping local is now more



Jenny and TJ frequently interact with local businesses such as Red Wing Shoes in downtown Mission, on behalf of Mission Business District.

important than ever.

"Please, before going to department stores and big box stores, check your local retailers and your local coffee shops," Jenny said. "Starbucks will be fine. They're not going to need a bailout. I would suggest checking your local retail store first and being cognizant of that."






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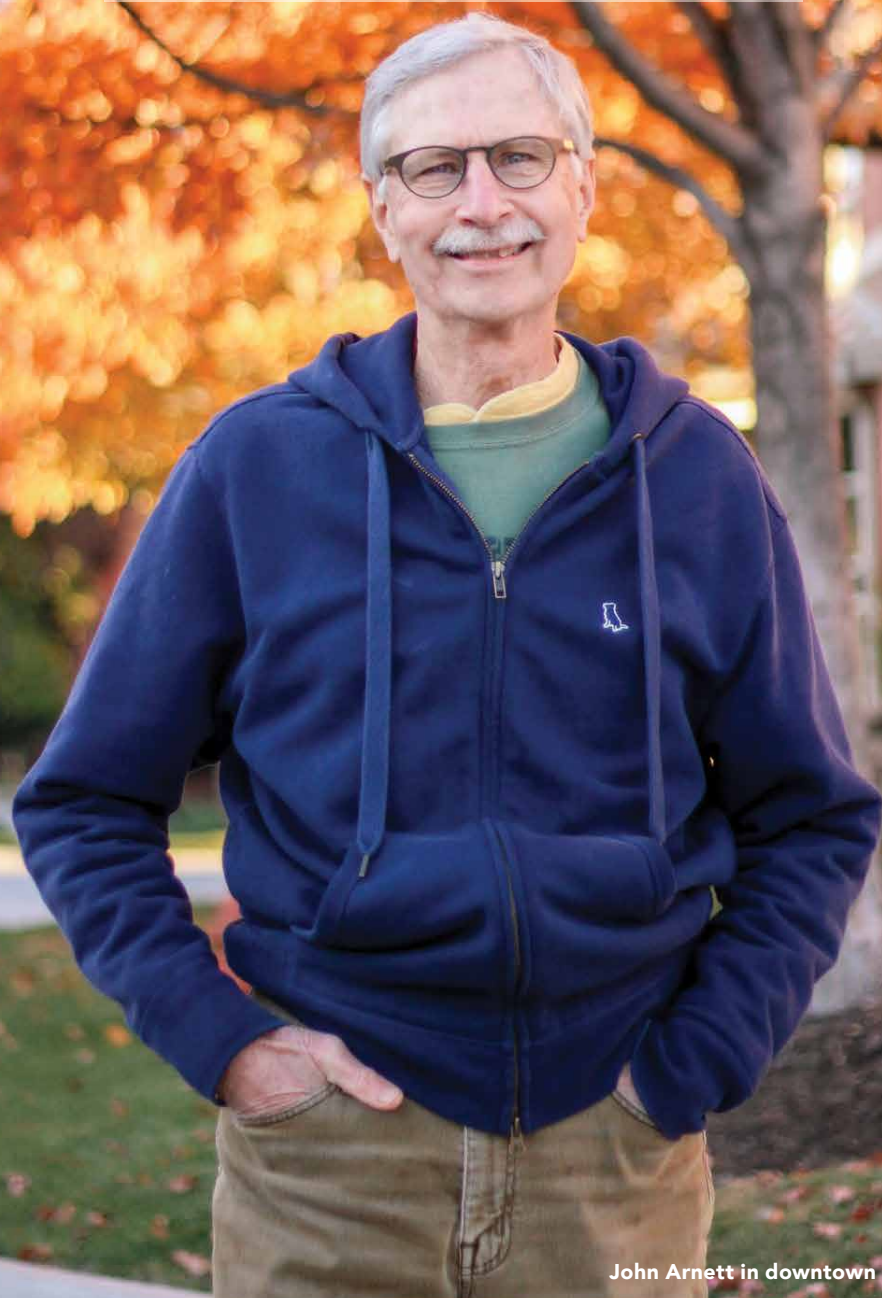
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SERVICE AS SECOND NATURE

Mission volunteer John Arnett on a 50-year
career of public service

Photos and story by Denise Elam



John Arnett in downtown Mission.

When John Arnett agreed to be a volunteer crossing guard at The Mission Market, only then did he realize he had come full circle in his life dedicated to public service.

"I remember telling Emily (Randel) after she asked me about doing crossing guard duty that it harkens back to fifth and sixth grade when I did it for my elementary school," John said. "I recall wearing the classic white canvas strap around the waist with a shoulder piece attached."

John has held various roles in public service since he was just 16 years old, starting as a police cadet and volunteer firefighter in his hometown of El Dorado, Kansas.

"I'm 66 now, so that's 50 years (of serving)," he said.

Shortly after graduating from Washburn University in 1976 with a degree in political science, John enrolled in a paramedic program known as the Mobile Intensive Care Technician Program at KU Medical Center. He originally considered delving into law — his three uncles were attorneys in Kansas — but his experience working on an ambulance as an emergency medical technician (EMT) in his hometown inspired him to apply.

"I found public safety more interesting," he noted.

Upon completing the program, John applied to Johnson County MED-ACT, the advanced life support emergency services provider for Johnson County, Kansas. MED-ACT responds to medical emergencies in Johnson County, serving more than 535,000 citizens with dual paramedic crews operating ambulances. At the time of his hiring, the paramedic program had only been operating for two years.

"As I continued in my career, I realized the program was a unique opportunity to start at the ground level of something and see its growth," he said.

When an opportunity to live in Mission came up in 1978, he took it — moving in with a friend and quickly becoming involved in the City.

"I became aware of a volunteer firefighter program that was offered through the Mission Fire Department," he said. "I had some experience with volunteering for police and fire in El Dorado, so I joined as a volunteer in Mission and continued that for 25 years."

John has lived in the City ever since, touting its walkability and availability of resources.

"One could just walk up and down



John just outside Mission Market, where he volunteers as a crossing guard.

Johnson Drive and purchase almost anything needed or find any service needed, and that's what's kept me in the City of Mission," he said. "It's so unique in the county."

Public service is second nature to John, who describes it as "a draw" to give back, whether as a career or hobby.

"Being on the ground floor of EMS (emergency medical services) in Johnson County was a unique opportunity," he said. "I didn't even think of it as a career at the time, just something I could do as part of service. I enjoyed the challenge, the science and the changing nature of the job."

Not every call was a challenge, but John did learn quickly how to act under pressure. He assisted with several accidental home births over the years, along with fires and other stressful scenarios.

One such emergency has always stuck with him. Years ago, on Thanksgiving Day, he helped someone who was experiencing a severe asthma attack.

"They were really critical in the sense of not breathing and weak," he said. "We were able to correct that (problem) and that person made it to the hospital and left within a couple of days to return to their family."

EMS, John attests, is a team effort.

"It's not just one person," he emphasized. "The 'Chain of Survival,' as it's known, is the call to 911, the dispatchers who take the call and gather the proper

information, the first responders, police officers and firefighters who work with us so closely."

In 2012 after 35 years of service, moving up from a position as paramedic to lieutenant to battalion chief, John retired from MED-ACT. He didn't rest long, continuing his volunteer efforts with the Family Holiday Adoption program, Johnson Drive Parking Task Force and eventually Mission's Sustainability Commission.

"I've been a member of the Sustainability Commission now since 2015," he said. "I participate in our general focus of sustainable measures within the City, whether that be recycling or sustainable efforts through the different departments like Public Works or Parks and Recreation."

When he's not serving the City, John likes to help out at the Community Blood Center by delivering blood. For the last five years, he has responded to local and nationwide emergencies as part of the Emergency Disaster Services Division (EDS) of the Salvation Army. EDS provides meals, packaged food and temporary shelter along with financial and social assistance to those amidst disasters.

"I've filled various roles, from preparing meals, to handing out supplies, to assessing the social needs of those impacted," he said. "I've volunteered at the Oak Grove, Missouri tornado. I was at the site of Hurricane Harvey in Texas for two weeks and I responded to a flood event in St. Joseph, Missouri."

In 2017, John was awarded the Citizen's Appreciation Award from the City of Mission for his work in the community. He encourages others to become just as involved, calling it a "worthwhile endeavor" that everyone benefits from.

"We all receive some sort of benefit from someone else's efforts or their volunteerism," he said. "Volunteering is just an opportunity to add to the general wellbeing of every resident."

"Volunteering is just an opportunity to add to the general wellbeing of every resident."

- John Arnett



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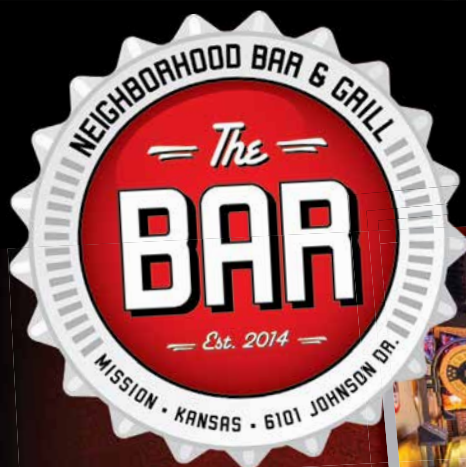


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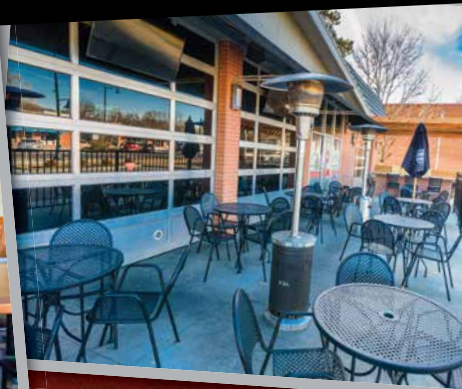
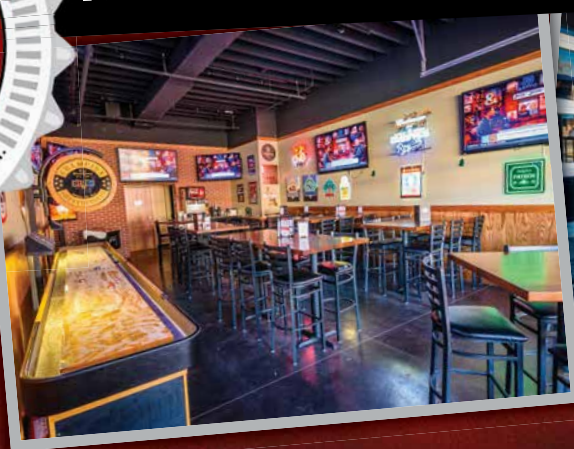
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CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Third Wednesday every month, 7 p.m.

COUNCIL WORK SESSIONS

Fourth Wednesday every month, 7 p.m.

All meetings are open to the public.

One of the most frequently asked questions of City staff is, "what are Mission's boundaries?" There are many benefits of living in Mission and Northeast Johnson County, particularly working cooperatively with our neighboring cities, but boundaries can be confusing.

Mission's boundaries are generally I-35 to the north, Maple St. and Nall Ave. to the east, 67th St. to the south, and Metcalf Ave. to the west.

In addition to questions about the City limits, residents often inquire which Ward they live in. The city is divided into four wards, with two councilmembers representing residents from each ward. Terms of office are for four years, with elections staggered every two years. The Mayor is elected at-large for a four year term.



Mission's website was recently updated with an interactive map that allows you to enter your address to determine the corresponding Council Ward. Visit www.missionks.org and search "ward boundaries" to check it out. Still have questions about Mission's boundaries? Don't hesitate to contact City staff at 913.676.8350 for more information.

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Congratulations to Rushton fifth-grader Kaitlyn Lockard for being selected as the 2020 Arbor Day Poster Winner. Kaitlyn was recognized at the October City Council meeting for her winning poster.

FIGHT SOCIAL ISOLATION THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

As the holidays approach, the Mission Sustainability Commission encourages its citizens to take time to reach out to those of us in our community who may be experiencing social isolation. This can affect people of all ages, but it can be especially challenging for older adults.

Dr. William Thomas, an authority on geriatric medicine, discusses the “three plagues” many of us face as we age: loneliness, helplessness and boredom.

These issues become even more pronounced during a global pandemic, and the holidays can pose distinctive challenges of their own.

Even during a pandemic, we have several tools at our disposal to help friends, family and community members fight social isolation. These include telephone reassurance, virtual visits, virtual programming and letters and cards. AARP also offers online resources for overcoming social isolation.

If you need help finding resources for you or a loved one in the Kansas City area, you may also visit www.linkforcare.org, which serves as a comprehensive service directory and information resource for the Kansas City area and surrounding counties.

As Mission strives to be a Community for All Ages, our Sustainability Commission encourages all of us to take some extra time during the bustle of the season to spread some holiday cheer this year to a loved one or neighbor.



We hear and read a great deal about social distancing; however, now is not the time to distance ourselves socially from one another. Rather, let's reframe this message to “physical distance with social connection.” Social interaction is fundamental to our mental, physical, emotional and spiritual health.



HOLIDAY LIGHT RECYCLING

Mission's Sustainability Commission is once again sponsoring holiday light strand recycling to help keep these items out of our landfill. No matter whether the lights are dead or just unused, the Commission has partnered with Midwest Recycling Center, a certified electronics recycler, who will recycle each part. Collection boxes will be available through Jan. 15 at Mack Hardware (6004 Johnson Drive) and the Powell Community Center (6200 Martway).

NEW SNOW REMOVAL STANDARDS ADOPTED FOR SIDEWALKS

Since last February, the Mission City Council has been discussing revisions to the current code as it relates to the requirements for removing snow from public sidewalks. Each winter season, the City receives a number of complaints from residents and visitors to local businesses regarding uncleared sidewalks which detract from the walkability of our community.

The Council spent several months researching policies from other cities and discussing ways to effectively promote snow removal so as to ensure the safety and convenience of those needing or wanting to get to work, school or errands during the winter months. In November, they passed a new ordinance that will require property owners to clear sidewalks within 48 hours of a snow event. The ordinance includes provisions for a courtesy notice to be sent to owners, occupants or agents in charge of the sidewalks if they are not cleared, and there will be no fee or assessment with the courtesy notice. One courtesy notice will be allowed each winter season. The ordinance gives the City the ability to remove (abate) the snow if a property owner doesn't comply within the notice period and for the costs to be assessed back.



Walkability and access for pedestrians year-round is an important value in Mission. There are many in our community who rely on being able to travel the City's sidewalks, and it's important that we all do our part to help keep everyone safe in snow conditions.

CAN YOU LEND A HELPING HAND?



Did you know there are a number of projects and programs where the City could use the help of volunteers? Individuals, families, church groups or co-workers are all encouraged to sign-up and take advantage of the opportunities to be a good neighbor. Shoveling sidewalks and driveways for those who are elderly or have disabilities is just one of the many ways you can get involved. A sign-up list is available on the website (www.missionks.org) by searching "Volunteer Opportunities." Once registered, Neighborhood Services staff will contact you as needs arise. You may also contact Neighborhood Services Coordinator Nilo Fanska at nfanska@missionks.org or 913.676.8360 for more information.

Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer.



PUBLIC WORKS PREPARES WINTER SNOW PLAN

Each winter season, Mission Public Works turns their attention to snow plowing operations. Mission operates two 12-hour shifts with 4-5 crew members each to ensure Mission's roadways are safe for travel.

- Plows run two routes focused on main thoroughfare streets and two focused on residential streets.
- Streets are prioritized by terrain, visibility and amount of traffic. A street with hills and corners takes priority over a street that is flat and straight.
- Crews also remove snow from parking areas along Johnson Drive in the Downtown District, along sidewalks near schools and along trails once streets have been cleared.
- All vehicles parked on streets must be removed when snow has accumulated to a depth of four inches or more, or any other time a Snow Emergency is declared, and kept off until snow has been removed.

For additional information on Mission's Snow Plan, visit www.missionks.org or contact Mission Public Works at 913.676.8375.

TIPS FOR SAFE TRAVEL THIS WINTER



Winter is just around the corner and the best advice for driving is "don't drive at all if you can avoid it." If it is not essential to get out, wait for the plow trucks to clear the streets and conditions are safer. If you must travel, consider the following:

- Reduce speed and give yourself plenty of room to stop.
- Keep your lights and windshield clean.
- Use extra caution when traveling on bridges or infrequently traveled roads. They tend to freeze first even when temperatures are above freezing.
- Do not pass snow plow trucks and give them plenty of room to work. Their visibility is often limited. Keep in mind, the road is way worse in front of them!
- Make sure your car is in good mechanical condition and you have plenty of fuel.
- Keep your cell phone fully charged so you can call for assistance if needed.

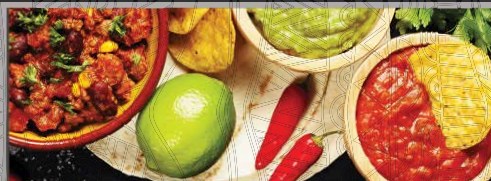
The City of Mission is committed to following local, state and federal orders and recommendations related to maintaining public health during the COVID-19 pandemic. We actively encourage all of our residents and businesses to comply in order to slow the spread throughout our community, and seek to educate and inform whenever possible. The City makes no claims that businesses or employers are in compliance with applicable orders and recommendations including those represented in this publication.

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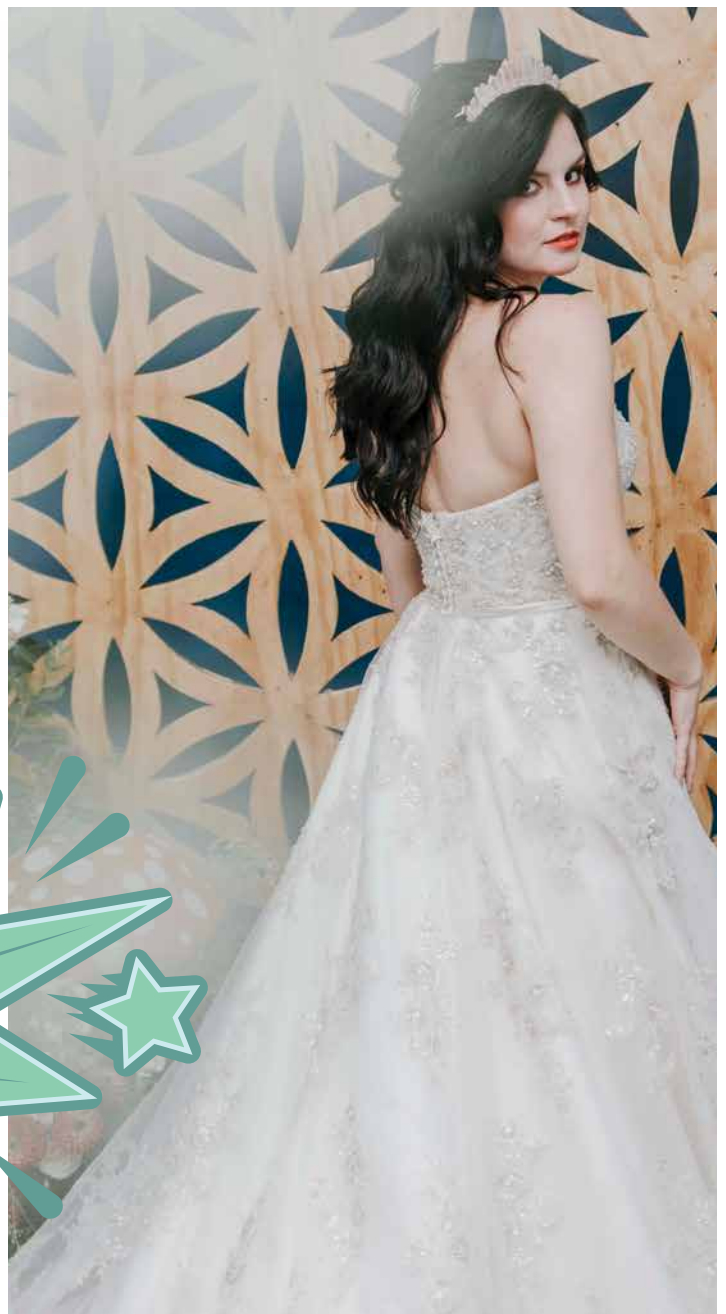
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Mission Bulletin Board

MISSION COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

THURSDAY, DEC. 10
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Enter the parking lot from Nall Avenue. Please stay in your vehicle while volunteers load the items.

You can contact Suzie Gibbs at 913.671.8564 or suziegibbs1@gmail.com for more information.



The November elections saw record voter turn-out. Thanks



to all who participated to make their voice heard. Before the next election, make sure your information is up to date.

- Visit jocoelection.org/registration for details and to check your status.
- Update your address if you've moved.
- Remind those in your family who will turn 18 to register as well.

Will You Consider \$20 in 2020?

In this year full of unexpected changes, there are hundreds of families in our community who struggle to experience the magic of the holidays. Despite the challenges the pandemic brings, we're committed to serving as many families as we possibly can through Mission's Holiday Family Adoption Program—but we need your help! Would you consider a donation of \$20 in 2020 to help us serve this important community need?

Please drop your contributions at the Powell Community Center or mail to Family Adoption Program, c/o Mission Parks and Recreation, 6200 Martway, Mission, KS 66202.



Shop Small Shop Local

As you consider your gift-giving needs this year, remember all the unique opportunities to shop

small and shop local right here in Mission. Please support your local small businesses this holiday season!



Celebration Tree Program

Looking for a special "gift that keeps on giving?" Consider planting a tree in one of Mission's parks in honor of a loved one or to celebrate a milestone event. Contact the Parks & Recreation Department at 913.722.8200 for more information on the Celebration Tree Program.



Pearl Harbor Remembrance Event

Tune in virtually for the City of Mission's annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance Event as we recognize and honor the history and significance of the 79th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 that led to U.S. involvement in World War II.

The 2020 ceremony will begin at 11:45 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 7, and will be available to all via a link on the City's website at www.missionks.org.

Learn more about Pearl Harbor's history with a trip to Pearl Harbor Park at the corner of Martway and Maple in Mission.



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HOW HAS COVID-19 IMPACTED YOU?

We asked members of our community to explain how COVID-19 has changed their lives this past year. The submissions inspired us to see the good in bad situations, to keep adapting and pushing forward through it all.



"This season has required ingenuity and flexibility for the church. When the pandemic hit, we figured out how to do services and small groups online to protect the congregation and the community. We collected food for those most economically impacted and hosted blood drives in our space on Johnson Drive. Following local guidelines in July, we resumed meeting in-person (outdoors, masked and distanced) to worship, study scripture and pray for the many needs that have arisen locally and globally. Come what may, Christ Church Mission remains committed to the good of our City and the good news of Jesus."

Dean Behrens, Lead Pastor
Christ Church Mission



"I remember the initial shock and genuine fears resulting from the threat of COVID-19. But it's what's happened since that I'll remember most. Residents, families and team members alike, all separated by physical distance, but growing closer out of love, friendship and support for one another.

People making the best of a difficult time, and stopping to be grateful for "little things" like shared laughter, simple pleasures and day-to-day health.

Through all this, I've witnessed the strength and resilience that makes up the human spirit. And for all that COVID-19 has taken away, I believe it's also brought that out in us."

Jeff Brown, Executive Director
The Welstone at Mission Crossing



"We at Salsa Grill have been in Mission for 19 years and specialize in Tex Mex food and the best salsa in KC. The biggest impact for Salsa Grill has been the conversion of part of the dining room to dedicated carry-out orders. This has been positive for us because it has enabled us to continually serve customers who might not otherwise have dined in due to COVID 19."

Jon Lomshek, Owner
Salsa Grill



"When we started this school year remotely, it was hard to get adjusted to things because we didn't get to see our new teacher in person. Not being in the classroom made it harder when we wanted to ask them a question one on one. And technology didn't always work so sometimes you would just have to wait until it started working again. The good thing about working from home was being able to see my pets more and when I was done with my assignment, I could have free time to read or draw."

It's a lot better now that we're back at school because we get to see our friends and teacher in person. It's easier to understand the lessons too. Recess and special classes like art and P.E. are more fun in a group."

Vaughn Davis, sixth-grade student
Highlands Elementary



"Fortunately, both my wife and I have kept our jobs during the pandemic. With COVID 19, we've both been working from home; the corner of my basement has now become my office while she works upstairs. The office where I normally work is a very collaborative space and I miss the in-person brainstorming sessions with my colleagues. The daily marathon of Zoom calls has become a grind, but we've been able to stay productive. The furry four-legged 'co-workers' at my house are around all of the time now, but they aren't very helpful and often fall asleep on the job. We've had to cancel some travel plans that we had for the holidays, but I'm confident we'll have excursion opportunities in the near future. These times have been challenging, but it's been impressive to see everyone adapt and find a way to keep moving forward."

Nick Schlossmacher, Mission Ward II Councilmember
Sr. Product Manager, VIN Solutions

Sweet OR SAVORY? YOU DECIDE!

Does your holiday cooking ever bring out a little bit of competition in you?

Former Mission Magazine editor Barbara Bayer and Mission Magazine Editorial Board member Mark Raduziner have a long-standing rivalry over treasured Kugel recipes.

Kugel is a baked pudding or casserole, most commonly made from egg noodles or potato. It is a traditional Ashkenazi Jewish dish, often served on Shabbat and Jewish holidays.

"Kugel is made for many religious holidays, including Yom Kipper — the day of atonement when we break our 24 hour fast with dairy products," Mark said. "That holiday occurs eight days after Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. But, it's also a beloved meal at Hanukkah time...or anytime!"

Barbara's sweet version and Mark's savory interpretation are both sure to delight your holiday guests.

Barbara Bayer's

SWEET KUGEL



INGREDIENTS:

- 12-ounce package of egg noodles
- 2 eggs
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 4 tablespoons melted butter or margarine
- 1 cup milk
- 12-ounce carton cottage cheese*
- 8-ounce carton sour cream*
- 3-ounce package cream cheese*

TOPPING:

- 3/4 stick butter or margarine
- 1 cup graham cracker crumbs (6-8 boards)
- 4 tablespoons sugar

COOKING INSTRUCTIONS:

- Cook noodles according to package directions. Drain and set aside.
- In a large bowl, beat eggs, sugar, vanilla, butter and milk. Add cottage cheese, sour cream and cream cheese and mix well. Fold in noodles.
- Spray a 9 by 13 baking pan with cooking spray. Pour noodle mixture into pan.
- Mix all topping ingredients together until crumbly. Sprinkle over noodle mixture.
- Bake in a preheated 375-degree oven for 40 to 50 minutes, until set.**

*Low-fat versions of dairy products may be substituted.

**This recipe can be divided into four loaf pans; bake 30-35 minutes.

Mark Raduziner's

SAVORY KUGEL



INGREDIENTS:

- 16-ounce Package medium egg noodles
- 4 eggs
- 1/2 stick melted butter
- 8-ounce cottage cheese
- 8-ounce sour cream
- 1/4 cup milk
- Tablespoon sugar

COOKING INSTRUCTIONS:

- Cook the noodles, then drain and rinse.
- Mix all of the additional ingredients together (melt the butter first)
- Add the cooked noodles, then put into greased casserole dish.
- Cook at 350 degrees for one hour.
- Do not preheat oven.

hope for the season

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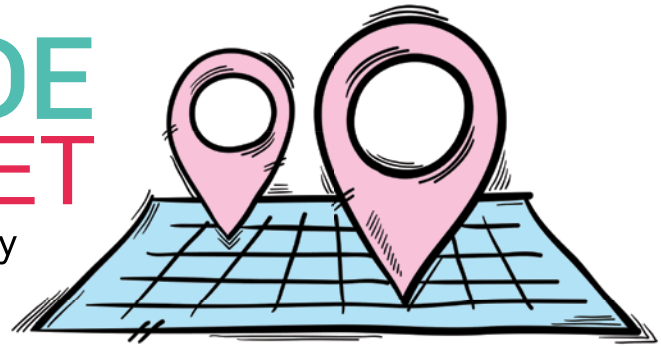
Check our website for all times and details



A TOUR GUIDE IN YOUR POCKET

Otocast app puts Mission history
at your fingertips

By Kate Deacon



Mission City Historian Frank Bruce reignited local interest in the City's origins when he created a walking tour of Mission that highlighted the rich history of Johnson Drive.

Fellow history enthusiast Suzie Gibbs had long been advocating for preserving and sharing the City's history, and as neighboring Merriam introduced an impressive history tour using the Otocast app, Mission saw an opportunity to tie Frank's work into the tool.

Now, residents can peek into the past using this self-guided tour app. Otocast provides an audio tour of sites celebrating the history of Mission, along with photographs and memories recorded by residents you might recognize.

GO EXPLORE!

Otocast is an app that provides a platform for mobile audio guides. Think of it as a tour guide in your pocket. The app highlights a variety of tours based on your location.

By exploring the pop-up map on your phone, you will have access to a variety of guided tours ranging from public art exhibits, historic points of interest and tours of local coffee shops. To get started, search for the free Otocast app in your smartphone app store.



CAN YOU GUESS THESE SITES?

Some sites on the app point to Mission's earliest days and some are much more recent memories, but all are crucial to who we are today.

Email erandel@missionks.org to let us know the places that are significant pieces of your history!



HERE ARE A FEW HINTS:

1. Don't mean to press the issue...
2. I walk (er, more like ride) the line.

3. Once Hoser's home
4. One Room to Rule Them All

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PLAYING TO AN EMPTY SANCTUARY

Organist and choirmaster Ken Walker focuses on the familiar during COVID-19

Photos and story by Denise Elam

Ken Walker in the sanctuary of St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church.

Through intricate stain-glass windows, rays of yellow, red and purple light flood an empty sanctuary.

The colors seem to dance across musician Ken Walker as he makes his way to the second floor balcony, moving nimbly up the wooden steps, resting only when he takes his seat in front of a large pipe organ. Without hesitation, he plays — an eruption of vibrations and melodies flood the room with sound.

Each Sunday morning since COVID-19 sent the world into a standstill, Ken makes the trek to the second floor balcony in the sanctuary of the St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church to play to an empty sanctuary.

"It's been so hard; we've been having our services online," Ken said. "We suspect that for the next year or so, we will have a hybrid congregation that is partially online and partially in person."

Just like every organization these days, the church is completely rethinking its procedures to adapt to the changing times.

"We've tried to keep a lot of the familiar aspects," Ken said. "Part of my philosophy is, during this time of stress, one of the unifying parts is to find familiar things that we know together."

And what Ken knows best of all is music. He joined the church in 1989 while finishing his Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Kansas (KU). He celebrated 31 years at St. Michael's in 2020, playing more than 6,000 services throughout his time there so far.

Originally from the west side of Denver, Ken said his decision to come to Kansas was due to KU's emphasis on music study.

"KU is one of the best organ schools in the country," he said. "I worked on a master's degree (at KU) and then I took two years and went to France (to study) at a conservatory there. I came back and decided to do a doctorate at KU. That's kind of how I ended up here at St. Michael's eventually."

From the start, music sparked joy in Ken's life. His mother was a piano instructor who introduced him to musical instruments at a young age. One day, when he was about 10 years old, he happened to visit a house with an organ inside.

"I just sat down (to play the organ) and it was like putting a duck into water; I just intuitively knew where the feet and the hands go," he said.

That small moment changed the trajectory of his entire life. His family placed him in serious study shortly afterward.

"I had a good teacher who played in some of the large churches in downtown Denver," Ken said. "He would let me come and play a piece occasionally, which was really exciting. Just trotting up to the church, I could feel my heart pick up beats."

The organ quickly became "a great love" of his.

"It's very gratifying to play an instrument that fills the room and also causes people to sing together," he said.

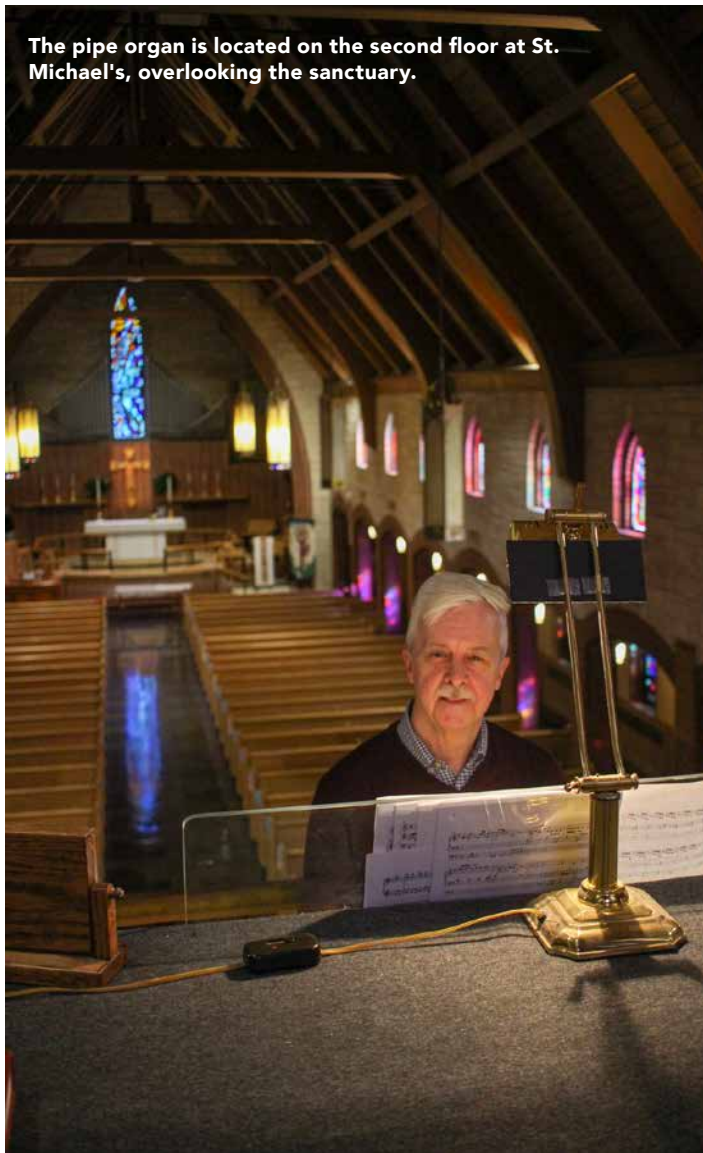
When he first came to St. Michael's, Ken started out as an assistant with the children's choirs before moving up to become the Director of Music. He spends most of his days preparing for the services, planning out music and gathering resources for the musicians.

"If the minister wants to take a particular direction for the service, then I try to find music that is relevant to what that topic would be, or to the intent," he said. "For years I have composed the psalms we use and some of the other pieces also."

Ken said the psalms have been particularly interesting because they allow him to



The pipe organ is located on the second floor at St. Michael's, overlooking the sanctuary.



and one successful outdoor service. A lot of preparation will have to be done each week to make in-person services possible.

"The pews will have to be sanitized after each service — all the tactical things (things that can be touched) like pew books have to be taken out," he said. "We will be taking all types of precautions."

Ken feels very grateful for his time at St. Michael's and looks forward to a day when the congregation can come together in person once more. The church will celebrate its 75th anniversary in 2021.

"We've been able to draw together all kinds of musicians and artists to do creative things and worship together throughout the years," he said.

He believes the love of God, love of people and love of creativity will continue to drive him and the church throughout the uncertain times ahead.

"There's always been a heart here for outreach and helping others along with a hunger for learning," Ken said. "I like that I'm not just an organist (here) ... it's been a wonderful position to throw out ideas and be able to see them come to fruition with a lot of good people."

"It's very gratifying to play an instrument that fills the room and also causes people to sing together."

-Ken Walker

experiment with how voices work together and harmonize. He typically composes one piece of music per week.

Besides orchestrating the musical aspects at St. Michael's, Ken also plans and prepares events through the Horizons Arts Ministry that he helped create back in 1992. The wide array of talents at St. Michael's inspired him to kickstart the ministry centered around bringing the arts to others.

"It was clear to me that we had a lot of distinctive talents, even in our own parish," he said. "We were getting together and enjoying what we were doing and bringing in other interesting people."

The ministry hosts performances and visual arts events within the community, reaching beyond the parish. Distinguished artists are invited to share their works throughout the year. The ministry also hosts large-scale events, like a youth summer art camp, Oktoberfest and cultural festivals celebrating diversity.

COVID-19 forced the ministry to postpone or reimagine events in 2020. Oktoberfest, for instance, was hosted outside with masks and social distancing measures. Live music, food and beverages were served under string lights, resembling a beer garden of sorts.

"It was a nice time for families to get out and enjoy it," Ken said. "Everybody likes good food and jolly music."

The church has experimented with restarting in-person services in November after months of online-only offerings



It's why I'm here.

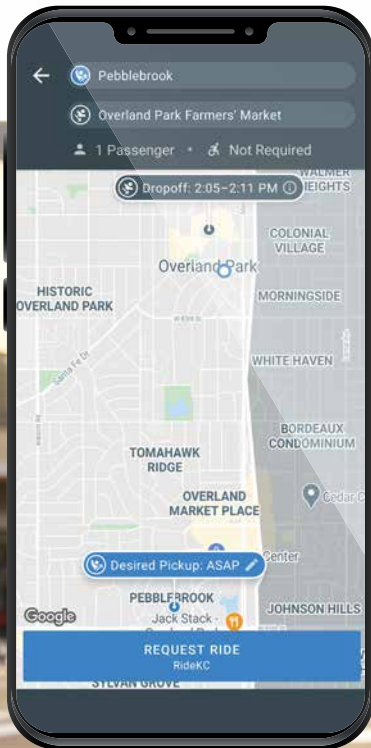
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Center 6200 Martway St., Mission,
KS 66202 913-383-8004



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www.faithalivekansas.com

GET BACK ON TRACK

with a Powell Community Center membership*

*12 month memberships
paid in full



Use promo code
CYBERMONDAY2020
on November 30 to
receive 20% off your
membership* – with
ALL fitness classes
included at no
additional cost!

You'll also receive great discounts on:

- Personal Training
- Swim Lessons
- Youth Classes
- Child Watch

Plus:

- Pickleball, Racquetball, Volleyball & Basketball Courts
- Lazy River, Lap Lanes, Water Slides & Hot Tub
- Intro to Cardio & Weight Training
- Free Weights, Cardio & Selectorized Strength Equipment

register at www.missionks.org

913.722.8200

Casey's

Auto Repair

Taking care of your car

5917 Beverly, Mission, KS

913-403-9500

Hours: Mon. - Thur. 7am - 5:30pm

5710 Johnson Dr., Mission, KS

913-403-9503

Hours: Mon. - Thur. 7am - 5:30pm

Friday - 7am - 4pm

www.caseysautorepair.com

**Oil
Change**
(free lube)

**Check
Engine
Light**

**A/C
Service**

Tires



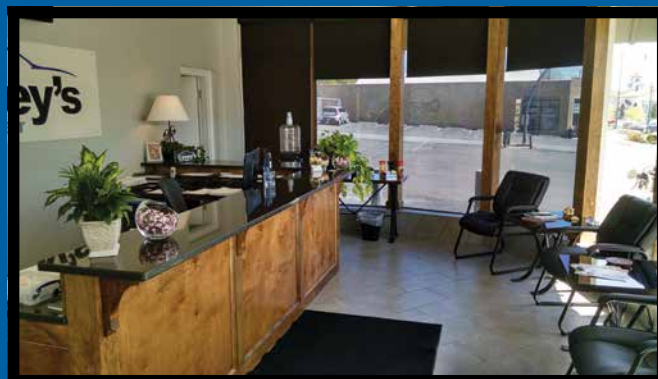
5917 Beverly



5710 Johnson Dr.



- Brakes
- Hub match brake rotors (eliminating brake pulsation)
- Repair or replace engines, transmissions & differentials
- Perform all factory maintenance
- Unlock your cars radio
- Electrical



- Tune-ups
- Work with extended warranty companies
- Reprogram ignition keys & remote fobs
- Repair or replace windshields
- Computer Diagnostics

ASE Certified • NAPA Car Care Center