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PLENTY OF REASONS TO CELEBRATE

As the leaves begin to appear on the trees and the grass starts to turn green, we celebrate the arrival of spring. This year, perhaps more than in others, this season of renewal and rebirth holds more promise for each one of us.

Not only are we coming out of a long, cold winter, but it seems that we can begin to see a light at the end of the COVID-19 pandemic tunnel as incident rates decline and vaccination rates increase. I don't know about you, but it feels like there is more reason to celebrate than we've had for a very long time.

Our cover story on The Running Well store at 6009 Johnson Drive celebrates how owner Kathy Gates turned a dream into reality with a business committed to helping customers stay active and avoid injuries regardless of age or ability. Her story includes a chance to learn about the challenges and successes she and her staff faced when the world shut down in March 2020. Adding virtual fittings and home delivery options to their already personalized services helped to set them apart and stand out in the crowd.

And we don't have to look very far to find other successes worth celebrating. The Mission Community Food Pantry was launched through a partnership of dedicated volunteers and Trinity Lutheran Church last fall to establish a permanent food pantry in Northeast Johnson County. Month after month, the program continues to grow, serving an important and sometimes invisible need in our



MISSIO N CITY HALL

community.

The feature story on long-time community volunteer Mary Funk is a tribute to the importance of quiet, dedicated residents who make it their mission to improve their City and community. Mary sets an example for us all and isn't afraid to challenge us to do better and to be better—a reminder we all need every once in a while.

And when it comes to "doing better" and thinking about our future, I know you'll be impressed with the ideas that were shared through the "If I Were Mayor" poster contest. It was definitely a humbling experience to see the care and compassion for the environment, animals and people — regardless of their differences — that our students articulated. We can certainly celebrate the hope they represent for our future.

This is a year of celebration for Mission. Seventy years ago on July 2, 1951, the City was incorporated, and our history as a unique community began. We have seen many changes through the years, and in another 70 years I suspect we'll look back at this time in our history and marvel at our resilience through all of the challenges we've faced and successes we've enjoyed.

I trust you will enjoy the stories of celebration in this issue of the Mission Magazine just as much as you enjoy the arrival of spring!

Ron

-Ron Appletoft, Mayor

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Mission

MAY/JUNE 2021

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On the cover:

Kathy Gates, owner of The Running Well Store in Mission. Photo by Denise Elam. Laura Smith



thankful for more life to live. ??

— Greg Stroke Survivor



Surviving an emergency is no accident.

To Greg, road trips mean freedom. But after suffering a stroke at age 43, his whole life changed. He realized how every second counts, especially when it comes to an emergency. AdventHealth's ER experts responded fast – and today, Greg is back on the road again.

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Speaking of which, have we mentioned our 72,000 BTU dryers? They're pretty sweet, too.
They feature an active secondary motor that blasts air through your clothes at 354 cu/ft per minute, resulting in fluffly, dry clothes, fast, without the heat damage other dryers can cause.

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Something wasn't right.

Kathy Gates couldn't put her finger on it at first. But she knew in her heart that she was meant to be doing something different with her life.

"I worked in advertising after college. I moved out to New York and worked at Grey Worldwide," she said. "I just wasn't happy for some reason."

She moved back to Kansas City, her hometown since high school, and got a job working at VML as an account supervisor. But still, she couldn't shake the feeling that something was missing.

"While I worked there is when I started training for my first marathon," she said. "I've always been really active, but once I got a traditional desk job I realized I needed to stay active for my health."

As she became more interested in running long distances, she began researching products to help runners. This turned into a side business, of sorts — creating bib books for marathon runners, medal display shelves and more.

"SOME PEOPLE SAY, 'AS
SOON AS I BECOME A
RUNNER, I'LL GO THERE AND
BUY A SHOE.' WE WANT TO
HELP YOU GET IN THE RIGHT
SHOE NOW, BECAUSE AS YOU
BECOME MORE PROFICIENT,
YOU MIGHT NEED A
DIFFERENT SHOE."
-MIKE PFANNENSTIEL. MANAGER

"I was going to sell my products online, but I had never sold anything to runners before," she said. "So I looked up running stores in the Northland and found Sports Medicine and Metro Walk and Run Store."

She met with the store owner, Bob Lafferty, to propose her business ideas.

"Through that, Bob started talking about me taking over the Sports Medicine and Metro Walk and Run Store," she said. "I purchased it from him in 2013 and renamed it 'The Running Well Store.'"

Kathy quickly expanded the store's reach in the Kansas City Metro area, opening another store in Lee's Summit. During a visit to Flatlanders Ski & Snowboard shop a few years back, Kathy stumbled across the next location for her business — Mission, Kansas.

"I tucked it away as a possible location and then as I was ready to open a third store, I revisited the real estate, looked at some spaces and fell in love with the City of Mission," she said.

The Running Well Store in Mission opened August of 2018. The shop specializes in expert advice regarding the right shoe fits and types.

"We specialize in a stride analysis," she said. "We'll put you on a treadmill, record your stride and match you with your shoe type category."

Shoe types fall into three different categories — neutral, stability and guidance. These categories depend on foot shape, arch support, etc.

"It's kind of like when you go to buy a car — you know you need a midsize sedan, so you might be looking into a Camry or an Accord," she said. "Most people don't know what style of shoe they need. So once we know your style, we'll bring out the right versions of those shoes for you to test drive."

Kathy said research shows that stride analysis helps prevent injuries typical to runners.

"In talking to Bob, one of the biggest challenges with a sports medicine store is that you really don't want to see your clients again because they're coming in with injuries — you want them to get back to their healthy lives," she said. "What we learned is that doing the stride analysis helped prevent people from being injured, and they were able to work their shifts at work, run and go on walks without pain."

Kathy said her shop isn't for runners only but instead, anyone who could use guidance on what shoe works best for their feet.

"We're called The Running Well Store, so a lot of people call and say 'Well, I'm not a runner,'" Kathy said. "We can absolutely help them. This knowledge we use for people who pound the pavement 100% parlays into somebody who is a nurse working a 12-hour shift or someone who walks their dog and is battling Plantar Fasciitis (heel pain)."

Mike Pfannenstiel, manager of the Mission location, said a lot of people come into the store fearful that they will be judged for not being a runner.

"The thing is — what classifies a real runner? As long as you're moving forward, no matter what speed, you still cover the same distance," he said. "Some people say, 'As soon as I become a runner, I'll go there and buy a shoe.' We want to help you get in the right shoe now, because as you become more proficient, you might need a different shoe."





Mike said a lot of customers come on a referral-basis.

"Over half of our customers aren't runners," he said. "We get a lot of referrals from doctors and chiropractors."

The shop has seen a lot of success since its opening day even during the COVID-19 pandemic that forced Kathy and her team to rethink a lot of the shop's strategies.

"The day that we had to close our doors to the public, we didn't have an e-commerce website," she said. "So I looked my full-time staff in the eye and said, 'I've got a month's worth of work to figure out how we're going to make this business model work virtually.""

She gives a lot of credit to her employees for rolling with the punches. They began offering virtual fittings — asking people to record their strides at home and send them in for analysis. Quickly, they procured an e-commerce website to sell shoes online.

A lot of the new delivery and sales methods used during those first seven weeks ended up making her customers happier than ever.

"We did store-to-doo<mark>r delivery d</mark>uring the pandemic. If you bought something from us, we'd drop it off at your house," she said. "Now we do it for free for purchases over \$150."

In-store pickup as well as scheduled fittings and virtual fitting quizzes are other new strategies that will remain permanent options at the store.

"A lot of the challenges we had to overcome, we came out stronger on the back end and made very quick business pivots that long term will benefit our customers and company," she said. "We were one of the fortunate ones for sure."

Another change to the business model post-COVID-19 has been scaling back on the weekly group runs. The Running Well

Store staff and other interested community members at all three store locations used to take part in weekly runs throughout the surrounding neighborhoods (Lee's Summit, Northland and Mission).

"Every Thursday, we would meet at 6 a.m.

and do a group run in Mission," she said. "Once the pandemic hit, I just couldn't justify staff-members being put at risk. We want to relaunch them the first week of June of 2021, which is Global Running Day."

and back trail."

in the summer," Kathy said. "Then it

takes you back to Martway and left

on Lamar. Just south of the Lamar/

you away from traffic and behind

some residential homes. It's an out

Martway intersection, the trail takes

Working with her staff has been Kathy's favorite part of the job so far. Her employees consist of knowledgeable ex-runners and even some former cross country and track instructors.

"I love working with the staff and people," she said. "What we do genuinely makes peoples' lives better, whether it's their qualifying for the Boston Marathon, running their first 5K or trying to get through a work shift without pain —seeing them come in with a problem and being able to solve it for them is just very rewarding."

During the winter, The Running Well Store is open weekdays 10 a.m. to 7 p.m and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays, with reduced hours on Sundays from noon to 5 p.m.

From Memorial Day to Labor Day, the shop's hours lengthen to 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. weekly.

For more information, visit therunningwellstore.com



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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Celebration Tree Challenge

Planting 70 trees during Mission's 70th Year

In a life full of reasons to celebrate, the City of Mission invites you to consider participating in the Celebration Tree Program.

"In life, there is never a shortage of occasions to celebrate — whether it be in remembering the lives of loved ones, celebrating a wedding or anniversary, a retirement, or a city's 70th birthday," said Penn Almoney, Director of Mission Parks + Recreation.

The Celebration Tree Program offers opportunities to plant a tree in one of the City's parks or on other public property to recognize the special moments and people in life worth celebrating. Since the start of the program, many have planted trees in memory of their loved ones. Some have even dedicated trees to their beloved dogs gone too soon.

"We are challenging the community to join together in this 70th Anniversary year to see if we can plant 70 trees throughout the City," Penn said. "We can't think of a better way to honor our City's birthday as well as our long and proud history as a Tree City USA."

A donation to the City of Mission covers the cost of the tree, installation, and maintenance of the tree for the duration of its life. Donations are accepted in the following amounts based on the size of tree requested:

\$550 – 2-inch caliper tree \$750 – 3-inch caliper tree \$2,000 – 5-inch caliper tree

An additional donation of \$300 will purchase a 9-by-5 cast bronze plaque allowing you to personalize the tree with information about the person or event you are commemorating.

Donors receive a certificate and a map of the tree's location within the City. A list of available species and planting locations are available from the Parks + Recreation Department.

Aside from the Celebration Tree Program, there are a

number of other ways to support this "greening" of Mission. Consider planting a native tree in your own yard with 50% of the cost covered through Mission's Stormwater Best Management Practices Program (see www.missionks.org for more information). Or consider a financial donation to the City's Tree Fund. Every \$100 will be put to use planting a tree in 2021.

Be sure to tell us if you planted a tree on your own property, and help us reach that "70 in the 70th Year" goal! You can help us track our progress on the website and through the City's social media accounts. For more information, please contact Parks + Recreation Director Penn Almoney at palmoney@missionks.org or 913.722.8210.

Meila, 3rd Grade

Meila's Mission is a City that promotes and rewards recycling efforts. But her vision also includes a community that encourages equality by creating "community programs

that coach our citizens on equality and inclusion in everyday life."

"I was impressed with the thoughtfulness that went into each entry. Our Mission kids are full of compassion and great ideas."

-Mayor Ron Appletoft



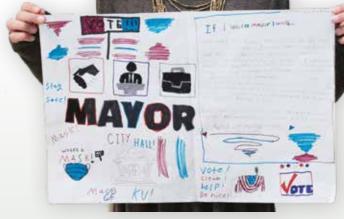
Charlotte, 5th Grade

If you thought these ideas were ambitious, watch out for Charlotte! Trash and litter, food waste, parks and green spaces, COVID-safety precautions, planting more trees, art in the parks, more benches and bicycle parking were among the projects she would tackle as Mayor of Mission. She also expressed the need to take a strong stand against racism and other forms of discrimination and "so much more."



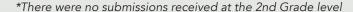
Anna shared her ideas for helping schools and supporting our veterans, but she didn't stop there. She also outlined her goals to help the homeless, to provide

homes and care for animals and to provide food, water and other necessities around the clock to those in need. No matter the day or the hour, Anna had a plan.



There's plenty to feel great about in listening to the ideas of the young people in our community. Congratulations to our 2021 contest winners, but a very special "thank you" to all who took the time to submit an entry. Time spent thinking about how to make our City a better place is always time well spent.

Poster contest winners will be recognized at the May 19 City Council meeting and all poster entries will be shared on the City's website and through social media.









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COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Community Development, **Finance and Administration**

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

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.

GOVERNING BODY

Mayor Ron Appletoft 913.676.8351

WARD I COUNCIL MEMBERS

Trent Boultinghouse 620.238.0394 Hillary Parker Thomas 913.961.4520

WARD II COUNCIL MEMBERS

Arcie Rothrock 913.568.2872 Nick Schlossmacher 913.788.6425

WARD III COUNCIL MEMBERS

Kristin Inman 816.510.7698 Debbie Kring 913.722.6901

WARD IV COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ken Davis 913.669.7095 Sollie Flora 913.735.4882

It's another important election year for Mission residents. This November, Mission holds elections for the office of Mayor and City Council, as well as positions on the Shawnee Mission School District Board and many more. Filing date is June 1 for those interested in running for office. Stay in-the-know and find a full list of offices on the



ballot and filing details at jocoelection.org.

Know someone who is too young to vote but has a heart for politics? The State of Kansas' Student Election Worker Program provides students aged 16 and up the opportunity to participate in government, serve their community, and learn about the electoral process. Check it out atjocoelection.org/student-workers.

Memorial Flag Fund

The American flags will soon be waving proudly once again on Johnson Drive thanks to those who have supported the purchase and ongoing maintenance of the flags through the Memorial Flag Fund.



Donations are made in honor of someone who has served or is currently serving our country through military service. We send our greatest thanks to them.

The most recent honorees:

Honoree Honored by Eric Schulz, U.S. Air Force Fern Schultz Wilbur Fulkerson, U.S. Army Lenny and Leah Bassin Mary and Ben Funk Daniel C. Funk, U.S. Navy Mark J. Holdridge Maggie and Jake Hendricks Daniel F. Sullivan Paul and Mary Roper Tim Sullivan Paul and Mary Roper Joseph Sullivan Paul and Mary Roper Robert Clarence Roper Paul and Mary Roper

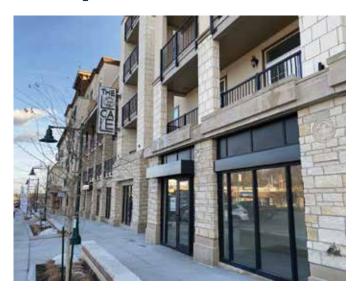
And the veterans on the City of Mission Staff

Honorees are listed as donations are made. An entire list of honorees is available at missionks.org (search: "flag").

If you would like to honor someone with a flag, please contact Mission City Hall at 913.676.8368 or erandel@missionks.org.

Sustainability Commission Recognizes The Locale for Sustainability Achievement

When a large project is proposed in Mission, the developers are invited to participate in the Sustainability Scorecard process. This voluntary process opens a dialogue between the Mission Sustainability Commission and developers or property owners proposing new development projects. Using the Sustainability Scorecard, the Commission prompts consideration of sustainable choices that go above building code requirements. Decisions about site development, land use, transportation, material and resource use, energy conservation, efficiency and carbon emission reduction and more are scored. Based on the score, the development earns bronze, silver, gold, or platinum recognition.



The Locale Earns Silver Recognition

Recently, the Mission Sustainability Commission presented EPC Real Estate Group with Silver Level Recognition for The Locale project at Johnson Drive and Lamar Avenue. The project includes 200 apartment units and an interior courtyard with a 5,000-square-foot restaurant space facing the sidewalk. The project earned points for compact development, access to transit facilities and walkability, installation of energy-efficient windows, heating and cooling systems and thermal insulation and more.

Developments that have participated in the Scorecard process include:

- Cornerstone Commons (Complete, Johnson Drive + Barkley Street)
- The Locale (Complete, Johnson Drive + Lamar Avenue)
- The Martway Apartments (Proposed at Martway + Beverly Avenue)
- Tidal Wave Auto Spa (Under construction on Johnson Drive + Walmer Street)
- The Gateway Development (Under construction at Johnson Drive + Roe Boulevard)
- Mission Bowl Project (Construction pending at Martway Street, west of Nall Avenue)

Future Project - Mission Bowl Apartments

The forthcoming Mission Bowl Apartments Project received preliminary Gold recognition for the Sustainability Scorecard process. The project will be certified to a LEED Silver standard incorporating locally-sourced materials, reducing light pollution, using energy-efficient systems and onsite energy monitoring, installing low-flow fixtures, and more. These elements will be verified when construction is complete.

The Mission Sustainability Commission is an advisory body to the City Council that aims to be a good steward of natural resources, make Mission, Kansas a desirable community, be advisors to the City Council, and increase visibility of sustainability in our community. The Sustainability Scorecard seeks to reward projects for making sustainable choices.



Common Code Enforcement Complaints

Spring and summer are good times to think about property maintenance! The City has adopted several property maintenance codes that help ensure our neighborhoods remain vibrant and attractive and maintain property values. Here is a quick list of some of the top complaints the City receives each year. Please use it to look around at your own property and see if there are any steps you may need to take so that you remain in compliance with City Code.

If you do happen to find an issue that needs to be addressed, the Mission Possible assistance program may be able to help with eligible repairs. Please contact Neighborhood Services at 913.676.8360 for more information on the Mission Possible program or with questions about Mission's property maintenance codes.





There's something new on Mission's streets!

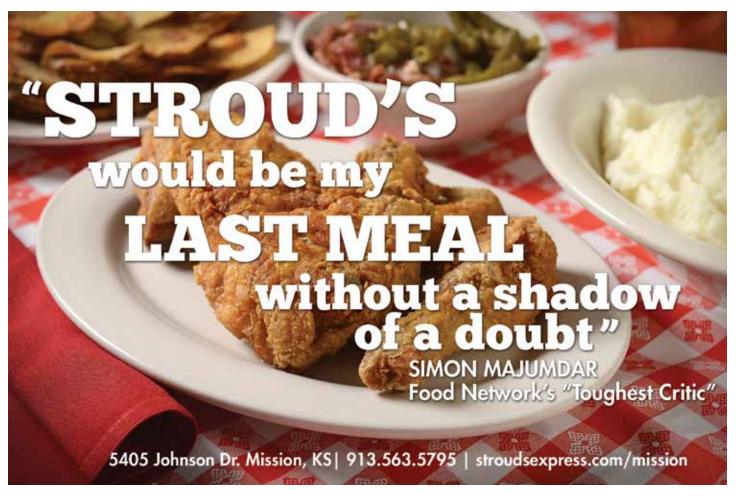
WCA Waste Corporation, Mission's solid waste service provider, has added trucks that use compressed natural gas (CNG) fuel to Mission routes. CNG vehicles emit less greenhouse gas than those that use conventional fuel, and they may also create less engine noise than other vehicles.

WCA has joined the GFL Environmental group of companies effective October 1, 2020.















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MISSION BULLETIN BOARD



Mission Business District Sidewalk Sale

Save the Date: Saturday, June 19 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Artists, makers and musicians interested in participating should contact the Mission Business District through Facebook @MissionBusinessDistrict Citywide Garage Sale May 6, 7 and 8

May 6, 7 and 8 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Please visit www.missionks.org for a list of sale locations





Mission Family
Aquatic Center opens
Memorial Day Weekend!

Hours:

Monday-Saturday, 12-8 p.m. and Sunday, 12-6 p.m. (subject to change)

Season Passes are available now-sold only at the Powell Community
Center, 6200 Martway.
For daily fees and more
membership details, visit
www.missionks.org
Stay updated throughout the
swim season by following
@missionksparksrec on Instagram

MISSION BULLETIN BOARD

THE REOPENING OF MISSION MARKET

Mark your calendars for the Mission Market season opener on Thursday, June 3 from 4:30-8 p.m. and join us every Thursday in June, July and August at 5635 Johnson Drive!

This season, we safely welcome back:

- · Live music
- A weekly wine and beer garden
- Food trucks, ready-to-eat items and additional picnic tables!
- Fresh produce, native plants, baked goods, local artists and so much more!

Social distancing, sanitation stations along with designated dining and shopping areas will ensure your health and safety in our open-air market.

Stay updated on food truck vendors, musicians and more by following us on Instagram and Facebook @missionksmarket or check out our website missionks.org/market for details.

MISSION COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY



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



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sign sticks up along the neatly-tended pathway just outside Mission City Hall. "Maintained by the Plant Lady," it says. The "Plant Lady" is Mary Funk.

Longtime Mission resident Mary Funk has been maintaining the flowers outside City Hall since 2016. Pulling weeds, watering the blossoms and planting new flowers isn't her job — but she considers it her opportunity. After retiring as an English professor and tutor from Johnson County Community College two and a half years ago, she has dedicated herself to more volunteering tasks.

Much of her volunteer efforts center around greenery, vegetables and flowers. As a certified Master Gardener, Mary is passionate about spreading the love and knowledge of gardening to others.

This passion led a neighbor to suggest Mary beautify the landscape outside City Hall several years ago. So she did. No questions asked.

"I went up there and pulled weeds around the

"I feel fortunate that I'm in a community that values volunteers. Because Mission does."

-Mary Funk

City Hall building," she said. "It took me 14 hours."

Since that day, she hasn't stopped — making weekly trips with her gloves and gardening tools. With no sprinkler system or close water source to use, Mary fills a dozen

jugs of water and carries them to City Hall.

But City Hall isn't the only location that has benefitted from Mary's servant heart. Each Thursday, she volunteers to groom the roses at Loose Park in Kansas City, Missouri and has for the past 10 years.

"Tending roses there is a joy," she said.
Up until COVID-19 occurred, she also
volunteered as an English tutor at Westwood
View Elementary School ("teaching English
for free, something I've never done before.").
Mary's class awarded her the Volunteer of the
Year award in 2019. She hopes to return there
someday soon to spend time with her first grade
students again.

When she's not gardening, Mary enjoys quilting and donating her work to nursing homes and organizations like the National Cancer Society and the Mission Family Adoption Program. She also quilts children's blankets for Project Linus with her quilt guild.

"I make quilts for the Johnson County Christmas Bureau for senior citizens in nursing homes," Mary noted. "I make them to cover a twin-sized bed. My thinking is, the fabric is clean and bright and it might have been a long time since they had a new blanket that's warm and colorful. My friends and family also receive my quilts; they love and use them all."

Mary recently retired from the Mission Parks, Recreation + Tree Board in 2021 after serving eight years. She was well known on the board for speaking her opinion and being a strong voice for causes dear to her heart.

"The Park Board introduced me to a lot of Mission residents that I would never have met (otherwise)," she said. "And it helped me learn more about City government."

Mary encourages others to pick volunteer opportunities that are close to home.

"You should volunteer in your own area, neighborhood and community because then you'll have more time to spend doing it," she said. "Try it out. If you don't like a particular community service, switch to something else. You don't have to stick with something you don't like."

Mission offers a variety of volunteer opportunities, according to Mary.

"Find out if the company you work for has projects you can volunteer with," she said "That way, you can work alongside people you know ... There's always church connections and meals to feed people during holidays."

She advises volunteers to pay close attention to their own schedules and consider how involved they want to be.

"The more you do, the more you'll enjoy it, and the benefit is a good feeling and helps others," she said. "I feel fortunate that I'm in a community that values volunteers. Because Mission does."

If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities available in Mission, please visit www.missionks.org and search "volunteer."







the needs of our community's

Mission Community Food Pantry, a beacon of hope

Story and photos by Denise Elam

In the parking lot just outside Trinity Lutheran Church in Mission, a young volunteer named Olivia carefully places hand sanitizer into the back of a van. Her grandma Julie stands close behind her, holding a package of diapers. Dozens of vehicles loop their way around the lot, waiting their turn to receive groceries and other essentials from the Mission Community Food Pantry.

The pantry, hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church with the help of a dozen-plus volunteers, provides perishable and non-perishable food items, diapers, hand sanitizer and other supplies on the second and fourth Thursday of each month, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Rhonda Synovec,
Children's Ministry
Director at Trinity
Lutheran Church, along
with Suzie Gibbs, found
a way to positively
impact the community
year-round. Suzie, a
staunch supporter of the
Mission Family Adoption
Program and coordinator
of the Harvesters Mobile
Food Distribution in

"We've been really blessed with the community in Mission, businesses and members of our local churches for their donations of food and time, plus a willingness to donate cash funds."

- Rhonda Synovec

Mission, recognized a need in the community.

"People aren't hungry just at Thanksgiving and Christmas; they're hungry 24/7," Suzie noted. "How do we say, 'We'll give you dinner at Christmas and Thanksgiving (with the Family Adoption Program)' and that's it? That bothered me."

Suzie had already been researching ways to create a food pantry in Mission when Rhonda called her out of the blue.

"She called me and said, 'Do you want to do a food pantry?' I told her, 'You know I do.'"

They put their heads together, quickly securing a room inside the church to store donated goods. A Pantry



committee formed in the Spring of 2020, including Suzie Gibbs, Rhonda Synovec, Lynn Kring, Jon Lomshek, Steve Anderson, Cori Hastings, Cathy Casey, Danny Smith and Arcie Rothrock.

Because of COVID-19 limitations, the committee opted to host a drive-thru style pantry — similar to the Harvesters mobile food distributions — until restrictions are lifted. The process is simple: as each vehicle is checked in, a designated number is placed on the windshield depending upon family size.

Someone needing enough groceries to assist four families, for instance, would receive the number four to display in their windshield. As they make their way through the line, volunteers place items suitable for four families directly into their open trunk.

"Even though we didn't know what we were doing and didn't have any help or money, we just thought, 'We can do this,'" Suzie emphasized. "We planned the first food pantry event the fourth week of October in 2020; it went great."

By the second week in December, 136 cars were lined up outside.

"The turnout was just phenomenal; it was wonderful because we were helping so many people," Suzie emphasized.

Since that time, the pantry has received both food and monetary donations from Trinity Lutheran Church members, community members, local businesses and Harvesters — The Community Food Network. The pantry also received several shelving units from the Mission Rotary Club and a freezer along with two refrigerators from Oregano and Thyme to store perishable items.

Suzie said even miscellaneous items, like bed frames and lamps, have been donated and happily given away to families. Both Rhonda and Suzie hope to increase the capacity of the pantry while providing more opportunities for assistance in the future.

"We're hoping we can allow people to come inside eventually," Suzie noted. "We'd like to dedicate another room where we can sit down with people and ask them, 'How can we help you? Do you need monetary assistance or help signing up for food

them to their available options.""

As manager of the food pantry, Rhonda is in charge of the dayto-day operations, including leading a team of volunteers to help bag food items on sorting and packing days.

stamps?' We can direct

Contact Suzie Gibbs at 913.671.8564 for more information regarding

donation drop-offs. "Everything happens within an hour-and-a-half timespan on a Wednesday night," she explained. "I have kiddos as young as 5 coming in to pack and sort. We have another awesome

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group of volunteers who come on Thursdays; they each take to their stations, smile and place items in the cars while talking to people to get to know who they are." One such volunteer, Nancy, hands out children's books to

"I think we have to feed their hearts and souls as well as their stomachs," she emphasized. "It's so fulfilling to see a child get a book."

For Rhonda, the most rewarding aspect of managing the food pantry is knowing that the needs of the community are being

"We've been really blessed with the community in Mission, businesses and members of our local churches for their donations of food and time, plus a willingness to donate cash funds; it has been a true blessing," she said.

One food pantry visitor, who will remain anonymous, said the pantry helps feed her six kids.

"We come for the extra help," she said. "The pantry has been a blessing for a lot of people because even if we can't use all the items, we try to find someone else who can."

To donate or volunteer with the Mission Community Food Pantry, contact Suzie Gibbs at 913.671.8564.



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*** 70TH ANNIVERSARY HISTORIC HIGHLIGHT ***

MISSION'S FIRST MAYOR AND COUNCIL

****** ELECTED IN 1951 *****

by Kate Deacon

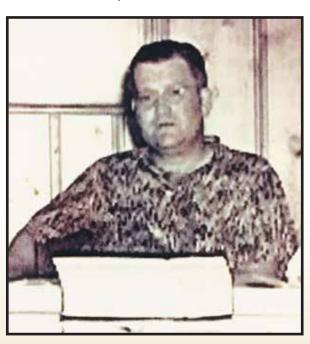
Mission, 1951: It's the heyday of the automobile, and suburban life is in full swing with new homes and new families popping up in every corner of Northeast Johnson County.

As both Mission Homes Association president and owner of the newly opened M&M Auto Parts on Johnson Drive, E.C. McBride was well suited to take the lead as the first mayor of the new City of Mission.

Prior to 1949, only the cities of Shawnee and Lenexa were incorporated in Northeast Johnson County, with the remaining land under control of the two vast townships. One by one, smaller factions of homes associations in the area began forming their own cities to serve residents' needs.

With businesses thriving and new homes appearing throughout the 1920s-50s, the area that is now Mission needed a more effective form of government than the township model provided.

Mission business professionals and residents, led by McBride, met in 1950 to begin the process of incorporating Mission. With the help of recent University of Kansas law grad Keith



E.C. MCBRIDE

1ST MAYOR OF MISSION

Martin, the team drafted a plan to incorporate as a third-class municipality.

On July 2, 1951, the Johnson County Commissioner announced the incorporation of three cities: Mission, Roeland Park and Countryside. At the time, Mission boasted a population of 1,862.

July 13, 1951: First Municipal Election

The original organizing committee elected to serve in 1951 included:

Mayor: E.C. McBride.

(McBride ran uncontested for the mayoral position until 1953, and eventually served until 1955, when he was succeeded by Sylvester Powell, Jr.)

City Councilmen: R.M Henry, Don Bremer, Ernest L. Reavis, Roy M. Daffron, R.A. Jones

City Clerk: Ernie Ford

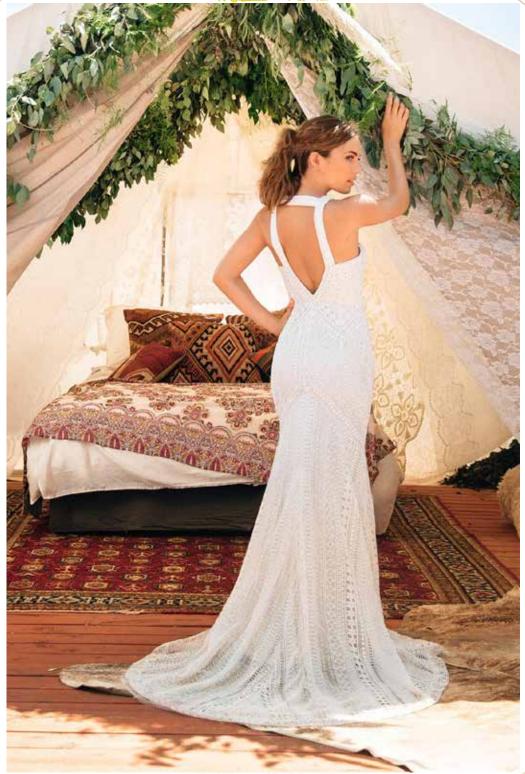
City Treasurer: W.O. Riddle

City Attorney: Keith Martin (Keith

would serve as city attorney until 1964. His son, David Martin, has served as the city attorney since 1977).

Continued on page 36

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First Ordinances passed in 1951 include:

- Licensing of Cereal Malt Beverage Establishments (\$100/year)
- Designating the Johnson County Herald as the official paper for publication of legal notices
- Adoption of an official City seal

Odd Ordinances of 1951:

#17 Prohibits honking the horn while car is not in motion, playing radio, phonograph or TV between 11 p.m. and 8 a.m.

*#19 Prohibited vegetables which carried an offensive smell or odor

2021 marks Mission's 70th Anniversary and we're celebrating with Mission memories all year long.

Have your own to share?
Please fill us in on your own
historic highlights!
Email pictures, stories and
memories to: erandel@missionks.org.



Newly elected Mission City Council and Mayor, July 1951. From left: E.L.Reavis, R.M. Hank Henry, Keith Martin, E.C. McBride, Myron Brooks, D.E. Bremer, Roy Daffron, R.A. Casey Jones. Photo courtesy of Mission Then and Now.



Automobiles line the storefronts along the northeast corner of Johnson Drive and Reeds Road, 1951.

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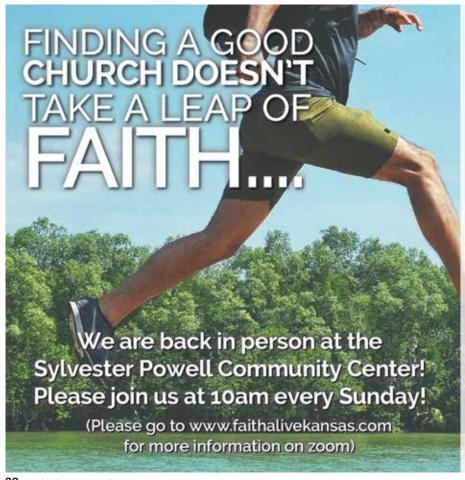
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