

SEPTEMBER 2023



# mission *Kansas*



## **VICTOR'S HOME & UPHOLSTERY**

KEEPS CHAIRS, SOFAS AND LAMPS  
LOOKING LIKE NEW

**Page 6**

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## **BACK TO NATURE**

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**Page 10**



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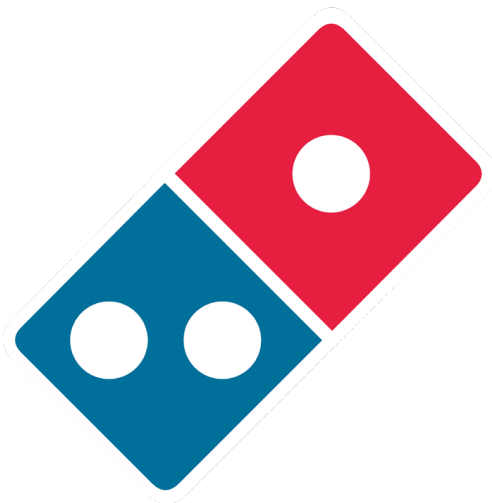
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then you can do the same as myself with hard work and a well to learn.

I have brought Peter Toal in as a partner in KC, and he will be living in your market and taking full ownership within the next few years. Peter has many years of experience as well and I have great trust in him to help move the market in the right direction.

For those of you that have had bad service over the past we are very sorry and would like a new chance. I believe we need to hire and hire the right people. With that being said we offer a great job but we have to have great people. As you can see below, we are offering a great deal and great benefits.

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SEPTEMBER 2023

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## SAVORING SUMMER MEMORIES AND LOOKING FORWARD TO FALL

It's hard to believe that afternoons at the pool, picnics in the park, and Thursdays at the Mission Market are now just familiar memories until next year. Where, oh where did the summer go? As clichéd as it sounds, the older I get the more amazed I am how quickly we race through summertime.

Now our thoughts turn to back to school, football season, roasting s'mores, and, before we know it, there will be leaves crunching under our feet on walks around town. The change of seasons gives us a chance to refocus on home and creating inviting and comfortable places to create lasting memories with friends and family. Fall is my very favorite!

This issue's cover story features a relative newcomer to the Mission business scene. Rene (Victor) Flores opened Victor's Home & Upholstery in the Mission Mart Shopping Center last October relocating from mid-town Kansas City. His showroom is full of fabrics and decorative elements and his enthusiasm for helping customers breathe new life into special pieces of furniture shines through in this story. We are excited to see him expand later this year with a specialty lampshade store right next door to his current shop.

As you read the story of Zack Herrmann and Kristen Wolf of City Roots Nursery, you can't help being impressed by the knowledge and expertise they share about native plants. Mission Market vendors since 2019, they love answering questions and educating Mission residents about how native plants can "make a yard come alive." If you are looking for a distinctive



and sustainable landscape plan, you can catch up with them at their nursery during the market off-season.

Our next story turns your attention back inside as the designers at Nest Interiors share their approach to interior decorating. Katy Cassaw and Kat Benson have partnered to provide clients with an eclectic mix of design styles - bold & stylish, yet always livable. Their goal is to have their client's home tell a story and "help you come home to Nest." They pride themselves in really listening to the homeowner's perspective and vision and helping them turn that vision into reality.

Our final story in this issue shares the experiences of Claire and Darion Hillman who recently completed a major renovation to their Mission home. The Hillmans have added a second story to their 1950's ranch home located just off of Nall Ave. With a growing family, the Hillman's chose to invest in making changes to their home that would allow them to stay in our community, putting down even deeper roots. It's not an undertaking for the faint of heart, but it's exciting to see our residents get creative in finding ways to stay right here in Mission!

I hope that whether you took a vacation or enjoyed a staycation you made some fantastic memories this summer and are looking forward to fall in Mission as much as I am!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sollie".

-Sollee Flora, Mayor

### On the cover:

The owner of Victor's Home & Upholstery, Victor Flores, sitting in his showroom.



Photo by Kathy Delorenzo

Additional copies of the Mission Magazine are available at participating advertisers. You can also view it on the City's website, [www.missionks.org](http://www.missionks.org). To advertise in Mission Magazine, contact Angie Riffel at 913.951.8446 or [ariffel@metromediapublishers.com](mailto:ariffel@metromediapublishers.com). If you have a story idea, contact Laura Smith at 913.676.8352 or [lsmith@missionks.org](mailto:lsmith@missionks.org).





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Victor Flores enjoys working with customers to create one-of-a-kind pieces.



# VICTOR'S HOME & UPHOLSTERY

## KEEPS CHAIRS, SOFAS AND LAMPS LOOKING LIKE NEW

By Kris Baker • Photos by Kathy DeLorenzo

**M**other's favorite chair has seen better days. Your mischievous new kitten has used it as a scratching post, clawing at it until it looks like it's been through a shredder. It was antique; it fit perfectly in the corner, and most of all it has a lot of meaning to you. A new chair just won't do. Fear not however, according to Rene Flores, his store can save your chair. More specifically, the staff at Victor's Home & Upholstery, an emerging Mission business, has developed an intense, handcrafted technique in reupholstering furniture.

Flores, who is also known as Victor, is the owner and face of the store and feels he has found the perfect spot. Flores moved his business to Mission from mid-town Kansas City last October. They needed more space and started to look around at various locations across the

metro. Flores finally found it when he came to Mission and discovered a 12,500 square foot store with big front windows that look right out on to Johnson Dr.

"I really like the area," Flores said. "It's clean, the people are so nice and welcoming. It just feels particularly good to have a big store here."

Victor's showroom is filled with every kind of upholstery fabric, from leather to silk, and a vast assortment of patterns, from tartan to houndstooth. Flores invites people to come in, walk around the big showroom, run their hands across the fabric and find out for themselves what they would like. He points to the Boucle weave, a looped yarn, as particularly popular right now.

The process is easy; simply bring in your piece and you will have something like brand new back in a few short weeks.

"I work with the customers to make something custom made," Flores said. "It's fun to be able to see something transform in front of your eyes." Flores bounces around the furniture in his store as talks, moving his hands around trying to capture the movements they make as he works. "Sometimes all we are starting with is a frame. Then you watch as that bare wood gets one layer, then another, and more touches until it becomes a one-of-a-kind chair."

Flores path to owning Victor's Upholstery started with a needle and thread. He learned to sew from a friend at 21, and really enjoyed the work. The detailed, intricate process of sewing appealed to him, in contrast to the large, moving and repair work he had been doing. Sewing, he says, was his escape, and soon he went from doing auto



The showroom at Victor's offers visitors a chance to explore many options for their decorating needs.



Victor's Home & Upholstery is located at 5301 Johnson Drive in the Mission Mart Shopping Center.



upholstery to antique chair upholstery. He was no longer doing jobs moving furniture; he was taking furniture apart and putting it back together.

After two years and several jobs, he started the business and was able to rent a space. The business has continued to grow to this day. Having had such success with the lampshade business, Victor's is opening a specialty lampshade business on September 21, right next to their current store. They are planning a ribbon cutting and grand opening celebration on that date. Flores wants to also take that opportunity to thank those who have been on his side on his journey.

"Lots of people have supported me and told me they liked what I was doing," Flores said. "I couldn't have done it without all my friends and family.

#### The fabric of memories

Do you have an ornate sofa where you and a young love first held hands from the 60's, a colorful lampshade that maybe witnessed a few swinging parties from the 70's, or a comfy recliner where you watched the big game from the 80's? No matter the decade Victor's Home & Upholstery's team believes they can repair your cherished item. The memories



are in the fabrics, and Flores says those memories can be restored right along with the furniture.

Getting something old made new

can be a part of a new remodel as well. Victor's team will work with interior designers to find the right fabric and color to fit your home. Simply bring in a picture of the inside of your home along with your piece that needs the work, and the designers on-staff can help find something to match.

So, why is it better to get your chair reupholstered as opposed to buying something new? Flores laughs when he hears this question as he has heard it many times before.

"When something is built to last, it is special, and with a little work a reupholstered chair can last another 15 years and still look new," he said. "I hear a lot from people that a chair or sofa feels like part of the family. And you don't throw away a part of your family."

Victor's specializes in unique sizes and custom pieces. So, if you have a piece sitting in the basement and you do not know what to do with it, bring it to Flores and his team and restore your furniture and your memories. Victor's Home & Upholstery is located at 5301 Johnson Dr. and is open Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; bring in your furniture and see what they are all about. For more information visit [vdupholstery.com](http://vdupholstery.com).



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Zack Hermann and Kristen Wolf in their Kansas City, MO nursery. They can be found at the Mission Market from June - August each season.



# BACK TO NATURE

## City Roots Nursery offers practical education on native plants

By Kris Baker • Photos by Kathy DeLorenzo

Home design doesn't stop inside the house, your yard can be just as important. The yard is the first thing people see, so it's important to make a good first impression. However, you don't need rare Amazon lilies or tulips from Holland to stand out. A beautiful and healthy landscape can start much closer to home.

Landscaping with native plants has become a popular trend over the last few years. And this little corner of Kansas is home to a wide variety of native plants and flowers, ones that look great and can be beneficial to your yard.

To dig deeper and get to the root of the matter, it's a good idea to talk to some experts like Zack Herrmann and Kristen Wolf of City Roots Nursery. City Roots is a growing business located at 3037 Woodland Ave., in Kansas City, Mo. From June through August you can find them at the Mission Farmers Market, where they are happy to answer questions and

educate potential planters about the benefits of native plants.

"We have gotten so many questions; everyone has been very curious," Kristen said. "There is so much interest in Mission about native plants and local wildlife. When we meet people at the market they really want to learn."

Zack agrees.

"We have heard people say they get overwhelmed and don't know where to start," he said. "It is always best to start by studying your site and paying attention to environmental conditions like sun exposure, moisture, type of soil, and then picking plants that grow well in those conditions. Right plant, right place."

Having a booth at the Mission Market has proven fruitful for City Roots Native Plants, and Zack and Kristen agree once people discover the benefits of native plants they want more.

"We are always happy to work with



people and find out what will fill their needs," Zack said.

Zack first applied his green thumb while he was still going to college at UMKC, where he got degree in film. While there he worked at a garden center, and soon started a landscaping business. Meanwhile Kristen forged her own path. She got her master's degree in economics while

Zack and Kristen love sharing their passion and knowledge of native plants with others.





falling in love with native plants through foraging for edible native plants with chefs from local restaurants. When Kristen and Zack got married, they both realized they had a shared love of native plants, and they thought they could turn that into a business. That seed blossomed, and the City Roots Nursery sprang to life in 2018.

Visitors can come to their nursery where Kristen is happy to help with all questions. She enjoys finding the right shrub, perennial or tree. Though they no longer do landscaping work, they have done some impressive projects around town, including designing and planting the flower beds around Mission City Hall.

It is not only people who enjoy their work.

"Native plants are good for the native wildlife," Kristen said. "Gardening with native plants is great for creating a habitat. These plants are food for the local butterflies, bumblebees, birds and countless other essential organisms."

In addition, there are benefits for the gardeners, property owners or land stewards. Since many native plants have deep roots, those species can be good for water retention, erosion control and drought tolerance."

"Black-eyed Susan is a popular flower that people have probably heard of," Zack said. "They are a very easy to grow native wildflower that, in addition to looking nice, are great for attracting a lot of pollinators to your garden. Milkweed is another important species. The monarch butterflies need them to survive. It's encouraging to see these plants used by wildlife so quickly. Insects can find them as soon as they are planted."

Kristen agrees.

"Native plants make a yard come alive," she said. "Your flower beds become a living thing; they have a seasonality. It gives you a distinctive landscape, and you continue to have an excellent look all year long."

For more information on City Roots and to see a list of the native plants they offer visit their website at [cityrootsnursery.com](http://cityrootsnursery.com).

## Benefits of Native Plants

Planting native plants in your yard comes with many benefits including:

- **Less water and fertilizers:** Once a native plant establishes it will require far less water and fertilizer than a conventional lawn or landscaping.

- **Soil health:** The deep roots of native plants can help improve soils' ability to store and filter water. Native gardens also build up organic material in the soil, which creates an environment for beneficial microorganisms to thrive.

- **Giving back to nature:** Gardening with plants that are native to your area is the single best thing you can do to provide habitat for local wildlife such as birds, bees, butterflies, and countless other essential pollinators and organisms.

Gardening with native plants provides important habitats for birds, bees, butterflies and other pollinators.



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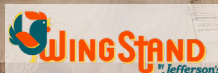
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## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

**Community Development,  
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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.  
Visit the calendar at [www.missionks.org](http://www.missionks.org)  
for a complete listing of meetings.

## GOVERNING BODY

### MAYOR

Sollie Flora 913.676.8351

### WARD I COUNCIL MEMBERS

Hillary Thomas 913.961.4520  
Trent Boultinghouse 620.238.0394

### WARD II COUNCIL MEMBERS

Lea Loudon 913.242.4284  
Mary Ryherd 913.221.2630

### WARD III COUNCIL MEMBERS

Debbie Kring 913.722.6901  
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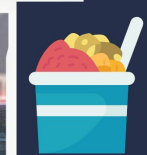
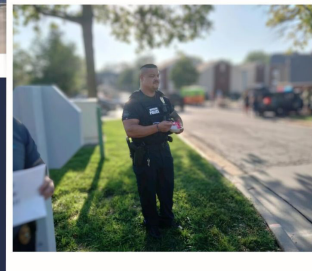
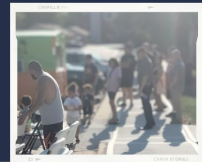
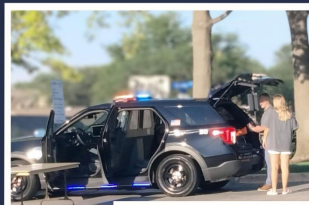
Ken Davis 913.669.7095  
Ben Chociey 816.332.7985

## Johnson County Transit Launches FREE "Market Line"

Johnson County Transit launched Route 487 on the 87th Street corridor in early August. This zero-fare bus route links the Lenexa City Center to the Mission Transit Center, traveling through downtown Overland Park and Prairie Village. This is the first east-west connecting route between 75th and 95th streets and is being referred to as the "Market Line" for its great connectivity between local farmers markets in Lenexa, Overland Park and Mission. Mission's elected officials recently gathered with representatives from Johnson County, the NEJC Chamber, RideKC, BikeWalkKC, and the cities of Overland Park, Prairie Village and Lenexa to celebrate this much-needed, FREE route in our communities!



## 2023 shaved ice social



Thanks to everyone who braved the July heat to join the Mission Police Department for a "Shaved Ice Social" at the Silverwood Apartments. Your energy and enthusiasm made this event a true success! Stay tuned for more events from the Mission Police coming your way later this year.



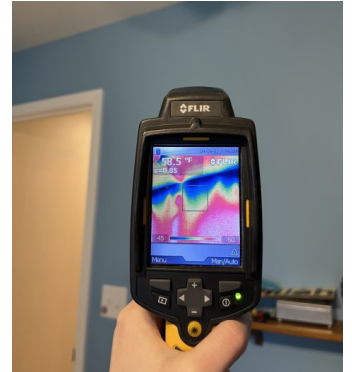


Two significant July storm events left many without power and with major tree damage. Thanks to Mission's Public Works and Police personnel who worked diligently following the storms to keep our streets passable and residents safe, and thanks to our residents who worked to clean up debris and get it ready for collection.



## Energy Audit and Weatherization Grant Pilot Program

Building energy and transportation are the two largest contributors to green-house gas emissions in our community. Do you know how your home contributes to your own carbon footprint? The Mission City Council initiated a new grant program to fund 15 energy audits of residential homes. The audits will tell homeowners where in their homes they are losing the most energy, and can recommend sometimes very simple adjustments to save money and reduce the energy used to heat and cool their homes. Residents interested in the audits submitted their homes for consideration this summer, and 15 homes were selected to represent a variety of housing types and ages.



The information gathered in the audits will be shared, with the hopes that others with similar homes could learn about fixes that may apply to their homes as well. Information on how to connect with a licensed professional for your own audit, as well as a list of common home improvements will be coming soon!



## Mission, Kansas 2022 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Community and Municipal Greenhouse Gas in 2022

### Learn the Numbers! Mission's Interactive Story Map Shows Greenhouse Gas Emissions Data

The City of Mission has just completed an inventory of our greenhouse gas emissions. Both those generated through municipal operations, and those generated by the community as a whole. The inventories used 2022 data and provide an update to a previous inventory completed in 2008. You can learn more about why we measure our emissions, how different activities contribute to our overall numbers, and things you can do to help lower emissions in our community in an INTERACTIVE STORY MAP. Learn more about this and other Climate Action Initiatives in Mission and throughout the region at [missionks.org/climate](https://missionks.org/climate).





**Saturday,  
September 23, 2023  
9 a.m. – noon  
Powell Community Center,  
6200 Martway Street  
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Join us for Go Green 2023! This FREE family-friendly Environmental Fair aims to show you how each small step you take can help reduce your carbon footprint at home, school and work and save money while doing so. Local businesses and nonprofits will provide information and items to help you live a more sustainable life.

Go Green 2023! will include 40+ vendors, children's activities, door prizes, giveaways, education, and entertainment. You're invited to come learn more about how being green can save green through energy efficiencies, local products and more.

GO Green 2023! is hosted by the cities of: Fairway, Merriam, Mission, Mission Hills, Mission Woods, Prairie Village, Roeland Park, Westwood, and Westwood Hills. For more information, please visit [missionks.org/gogreen](https://missionks.org/gogreen)

## Remodeling for Accessible Homes

Homeowners in Mission have a new tool to help them with ideas to renovate their homes as they get older and/or their abilities change. "Remodeling for Accessible Homes" produced by the First Suburbs Coalition and KC Communities for All Ages, provides ideas, sample floorplans, cost estimates and other resources for those who want to update their houses to better serve their changing needs. Additionally, a promotional/educational video is available to further help homeowners learn about accessible home renovation ideas.

Mission became recognized as a Gold Level city within the Mid-America Regional Council's Communities for All Ages Recognition Program by demonstrating through policy and action a desire to be a welcoming community for all ages. For more information contact Emily Randel at 913.676.8368 or [erandel@missionks.org](mailto:erandel@missionks.org).





## Building Community

### Mission's Grant Programs Provide Support to Residents and Businesses

Building and maintaining a strong, healthy community is an important priority for the City of Mission. For many years, Mission has helped to support this goal by returning dollars to residents through a franchise and property tax rebate program, and by investing in both residential neighborhoods and commercial areas through a number of different community grant and outreach programs.

Mission's Mayor and City Council budget nearly \$100,000 annually to fund these programs, and with only a few exceptions, these funds available on a first-come, first-served basis. The various rebate and community grant programs are highlighted below.



#### Community Rebate Program (Franchise Fee/Property Tax/Solid Waste Utility Rebates)

Income-eligible residents may apply to receive: a full rebate of city telephone, electricity, or gas franchise fees for the year, a partial rebate of city property taxes, and a partial rebate of solid waste utility fees. Residents must meet income guidelines to qualify.

#### Mission Possible

The Mission Possible program assists homeowners with the removal of physical barriers, dilapidated structures, qualifying home repairs, house painting and tree trimming. Funds are awarded based on the applicant's income, eligibility to receive Medicare/Social Security disability benefits, involvement in code case resolution and other factors. The program strives to partner with all Mission residents who are interested in making improvements to their homes.

#### Neighborhood Grant Program

The Neighborhood Grant Program provides up to \$500 to help resident-based groups build and preserve community through various programs and activities. Examples include starting neighborhood newsletters or email lists, sponsoring block parties, preparing informational workshops or other community-building activities.

#### Mission Business Improvement Grant (BIG)

This grant is designed to local businesses through funding for exterior building repairs or improvements and qualified energy efficiency upgrades. Applicants will be reimbursed at one-half (50%) of their approved costs, with the City's share not to exceed \$10,000 per project annually or \$2,000 per sign. Since its inception in 2004, the BIG grant program has provided \$476,000 in grant funds that have helped to leverage more than \$1.4 million in total improvements to businesses throughout the community.

For more information on these and other assistance and grant programs available through the City, please contact Nilo Fanska, Community Development Coordinator at 913.676.8360 or [nfanska@missionks.org](mailto:nfanska@missionks.org) or visit the City's website at: [www.missionks.org/](http://www.missionks.org/)





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## November 2023 Elections

Although none of Mission's City Council seats have contested elections this November, it's still important for you to get registered and take the time to cast your vote. For more information on voting in Johnson County, please visit [jocoelection.org](http://jocoelection.org)



## BUSINESS RECYCLING PARTNERSHIP

This summer, the City partnered with the GFL Environmental and the Mission Business District to unveil a new cardboard recycling program for downtown businesses. Six recycling bins will be placed throughout the downtown district to assist our businesses with their sustainability efforts.



## GOT TAPE?

As we prepare for another important season of giving, Mission's Family Adoption program is seeking donations of scissors, tape and gift boxes. If you'd like to donate, please drop items off at the Powell Community Center. Thank you!





# Mission Community Food Pantry

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A beautiful, serene  
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# The Personal Touch

Let your personality shine through with Nest Interiors

by Kris Baker • Photos courtesy of Nest Interiors

It's said a person's home is their castle. However, it can be your "nest" as well. Comfortable, cozy and aesthetically pleasing, your home should be all these things and more. This is where you spend most of your time, and studies have shown that when people are unsatisfied with where they live, it can affect their outlook in other aspects of their life. If you are sitting in your home right now, and it is not everything it could be, then it may be time to act.

That would be the advice of Katy Cassaw and Kat Benson, owners of Nest Interiors, located at 5911 Johnson Dr., in Mission. Nest Interiors is a full-service

interior design studio specializing in residential design on all levels from new construction to finish selections, furnishings and remodeling. Cassaw and Benson have a combined 18 years of design experience; they look to provide clients with an eclectic mix of design styles - bold, stylish, yet always livable. Their goal is to have their client's home tell a story and "help you come home to Nest."

But this Nest was built from humble origins.

"My business partner, Kat, and I used to work together at another design firm in town," Cassaw said. That business unexpectedly closed, and we found

ourselves without a job and not a lot of options out there for larger design firms to work at. We interviewed for other positions in the commercial field and weren't loving the opportunities. We met for lunch one day and cried over our broccoli cheddar soup at Panera and decided 'why not open our own design business.' It was a wild idea, but we didn't have much to lose at that point. Almost 10 years later, we have found ourselves in downtown Mission with a wonderful studio space to share with our clients."

And has Nest enjoyed their landing spot?

"Yes, we love being right on Johnson



The owners of Nest like an eclectic mix of design styles - bold, stylish, yet always livable.



Drive in a prominent location next to the Mission Theatre," Cassaw said. "Many clients have found us through word of mouth or even just driving or walking by our studio. We love the quaint, neighborhood feel of this area."

Talking to Cassaw, you quickly get the sense of how knowledgeable she is about her business, and how much she enjoys her work.

"We have had a few challenging projects for older homes where we think that something will work design wise, and then behind the wall is something we couldn't have imagined which will derail our plans."

After being asked a few more questions, she paints a more complete picture.

"What's been your most rewarding project?"

"Same as the challenging," Cassaw said. "When we solve a difficult problem in an older home, that can be the most rewarding. We love bringing new life into old homes while modernizing them but still keeping the architectural integrity intact."

With access to hundreds of furnishing lines, Cassaw and Benson provide a modern experience to homeowners, from providing material selections to specifying furnishings for your entire home. However, they are not interested in imposing their tastes on others. Their commitment is that your personality will come through in the new interior designs.

"We are a little different than some design firms in that we focus solely on the client's vision," she said. "If the client loves traditional, we go traditional. If the client loves contemporary, we go contemporary. We want each of the spaces we design to really reflect the people that live there but with a Nest twist. We also take a team approach to each of our projects which we find to be beneficial for our clients to have multiple eyes on each project."

Nest Interiors seems to have fit nicely into their home in Mission. To see more of what Cassaw and Benson can do, you can see their design portfolio and gallery at [nestkc.com](http://nestkc.com).



**Nest Interior owners Katy Cassaw and Kat Benson love making client's visions come to life.**



**A fresh and inviting kitchen remodel with a statement hood showcasing the designer's talents.**



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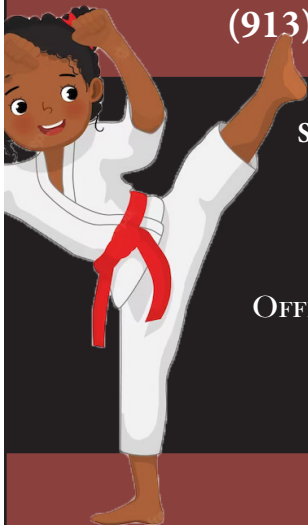
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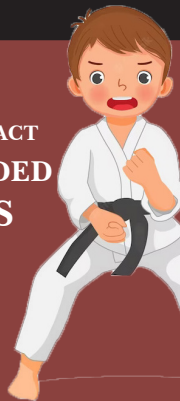
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**AFTER**



Photos courtesy of Astoria Design Build

A partnership between a Mission family and a Mission business gave this 1950's ranch-style home a fresh and inviting look.



**BEFORE**

# A FAMILY'S NEW STORY

Story by Kris Baker

**F**or Claire and Darion Hillman, owning a home in Mission has been a journey, as well as a chance to grow. The growth has come from the relationships they have built with their neighbors and their community, from the size of their family as they raised their children, and from the actual physical size of their home.

The Hillmans bought their one-story Mission home in 2017. At the time, the home was perfect for their needs. However, life brings change, and within a few years things were getting a little cramped. They loved living in Mission so moving away did not appeal to them.

"Our family had gotten bigger, and we needed more space. We knew we wanted to stay in the area, so we started looking around," Claire said. "Nothing matched what we needed. So, to stay in Mission, and have the space we needed, we

decided we had to add on to our home."

So, the journey began as the Hillmans began considering how to double the size of their house. Claire and Darion felt their best option was to add a second story and the next challenge adding their steps and stairs was finding the right people to do the job. Claire and Darion knew this was a big job, so they did their homework.

"We did lots of research," Claire said. "We talked to a lot of different contractors and when possible, toured sites they had worked on and talked to former clients they had. It was a lengthy process."

The Hillmans agreed doing this extra work paid off because that is how they found Astoria.

Astoria Design Build, a full-service design and general contracting business, agreed to work hand-in-hand with the Hillmans during every step of the

process. Astoria is a Mission business, with offices located at 5845 Horton St. Suite 212. There was something else which made Astoria stand out; they are a women owned contracting company.

"That was really important to our family," Claire said.

"We have heard similar feedback from other clients," said Crystal Labrum, director of design and co-owner of Astoria Design Build. "We have heard we are more approachable. That we listen and really hear what people want."

This was the experience Claire says they received with Astoria.

"I talked to Crystal a lot and we really came to an understanding," Claire said. "I liked everything I heard. We personally worked together on picking out the trims and finishings. I didn't know exactly what to expect, but I felt like we were in good hands."



Astoria's crew was ready to raise the roof, literally. The entire roof was removed from the Hillman's home, so the family relocated to a one-bedroom apartment down the road. They had no idea what changes their home would undergo in the months that followed.

### **'Better than I had imagined'**

Crystal Labrum met Luana Haas and Jamie Hauser while they were all working at a design company. They discovered they each had different and complimentary skills. After putting their heads together, they came up with the idea to start their own business. They started small, subcontracting all of their work, and grew to 10 employees. Then they met the Hillmans. This early job became a large and important one for Astoria.

"It was a challenge to not interrupt the entire main level; we had to figure out how to add a whole second story onto this house," Labrum said. "There were a lot of details to plan for. One of the hardest was figuring out where to put the staircase."

This was a lot of space to add, and Labrum and the team soon found out everything this build would need. The



**Darion and Claire Hillman are pleased with the expansion of their Mission home. Photo courtesy of the Hillman family**

**A look at the remodeled kitchen, dining and living space for the Hillman family.**



**Photo courtesy of Astoria Design Build**



project would require carpenters, electricians, plumbers and more.

"It's a process of finding the right ways to get things done," Labrum said.

Labrum said they named their company after Astoria, Oregon, where one of their favorite movies "The Goonies," was filmed. They wanted a feminine sounding name, and the name fit perfectly when they found out Astoria means hawk-like in Greek. A image of a hawk was immediately incorporated into their logo.

"It worked because we always keep an eye on our projects," Labrum said. "A hawk-eye. Like a hawk watching her nest."

Astoria kept a faithful watch over the Hillmans' home from April to December of 2021. When the family was able to see their home as it neared completion, Claire couldn't believe her eyes. When she walked into her now two-story home, she could not stop smiling.

"It was so exciting," she exclaimed. "I never dreamed our house could look like this. It was better than I had imagined."

The Hillman family is so appreciative of everyone who worked on their home, and Claire said she would certainly recommend Astoria to others looking for a major home renovation.

Astoria Design Build has been expanding their business, but they are still proud of their association to Mission, which Labrum said is "really full of great people. We love it here." For more information on this growing business go to [astoriadesignbuild.com](http://astoriadesignbuild.com).

With the long process over, the Hillman family has settled into their newly



Updates to the kitchen provided more storage and a bright, modern feel. Photos on this page courtesy of Astoria Design Build



Crystal Labrum (from left), Luana Haas, and Jamie Hauser worked to bring the Hillmans' vision to life.

remodeled home. Any initial trepidation they had about the project is long since gone. The concerns they had about disrupting their neighborhood or causing a mess never became an

issue.

"We gave all our neighbors our numbers and told them to call us with any problems," she said. "And we did not get one complaint. This neighborhood is great."





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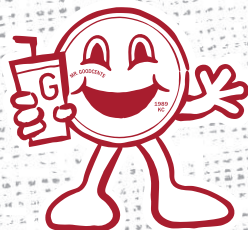
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Due to Mission resident support of the Parks + Recreation sales tax renewal, Mohawk Park phase 1 is quickly nearing completion. There will be 3 family style restrooms, water fountain and water bottle filling station, pavilion/shelter for 75-100, 10 ft wide concrete trail tie ins, new ADA park access and a new parking lot.



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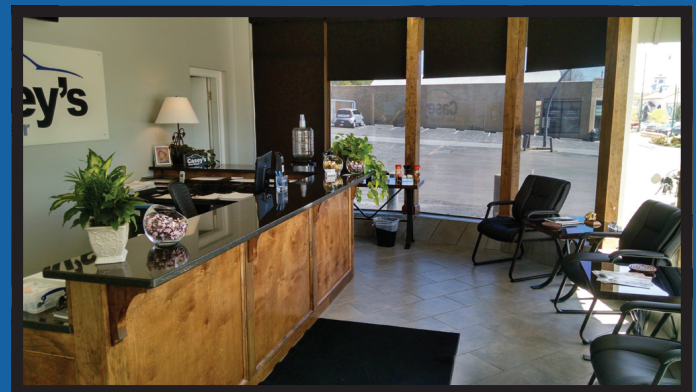
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