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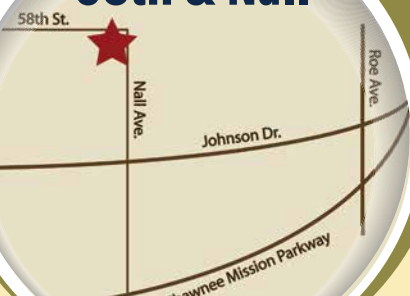
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# Did you know!

Adults laugh, on average, **six** times a day. Children laugh, on average, **150** times a day!

Our wedding anniversary is in the beautiful month of February, and as usual, we start the day with brunch. This particular morning, we headed to an organic, fun restaurant and noting that the place was full, we were shown to the only table available — and guess where? Next to a grandmother with two small boys who were having the time of their lives screaming into an empty cream pitcher! Of course, I wanted to reach over and say — “Why don’t you take them to McDonald’s?” — but that would have embarrassed my husband, Jack. The waitress came, asked if we would like coffee and we immediately said no thank you, we are celebrating our anniversary and we would like a bloody mary, feeling like I had to explain, since it was 9 a.m. on a weekday and we were probably the oldest couple in the place.

Bless the waitress — she quickly noticed a table that was being emptied — far from the loud boys where we could enjoy our brunch, and we happily moved. As we were finishing brunch, the waitress came to our table, wished us a happy anniversary and said the drinks are on the house — see you next year. I wanted to cheer, but looking around the room, it was a very somber group of elderly people.

After brunch we wandered around the neighborhood and stopped at a used book store, where the owner was worse than grumpy. We left there, walked around an antique store where all the owner had to say was, “You don’t have to pay sales tax on this merchandise as it all came from an estate sale!” He was Mr. No Personality!



I was beginning to realize that those two little boys started our day off with a laugh, and I should have appreciated it.

Winter can be gloomy — but starting your day off with a laugh and a smile will not only make you feel better, but it will also make another person smile. So, my challenge to you is: Can you laugh more than six times in a day? Try it. And the next time someone says, “It’s a beautiful day,” smile and say “Yes, it certainly is!” Their day may be gray as a goose, but your smile and laughter will go a long way to cheer someone else up.

We have tried to brighten your days with this issue of our Mission Magazine! Wait until you read about the Mission Theatre — you will want to run right down there and secretly wish they were still handing out popcorn! Have you been to the new Christ Church, which holds Sunday services in the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center? The music makes you want to stand up and dance! Or check out the table decorations at Mission Square — they will not only bring back memories, but they will wet your appetite as well. How long has it been since you’ve had a Dad’s Root Beer?

So, kick back, put a smile on your face, a laugh in your heart and enjoy the magazine.

*Suzie Gibbs*



## ON THE COVER:

The historic Mission Theatre has recently re-opened as an event space.

Photo by Scott Fishman.

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# Mission

*Your Hometown*

MARCH 2017

|                             |                                                                                                               |
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# Meet Megan,

and find out how  
she met her new  
primary care doctor.



1

Last year, Megan made a healthy discovery: Barre fitness workouts. Today, she made a new one. She discovered that *MyHealthKC.com* can help her find the primary care doctor she deserves.

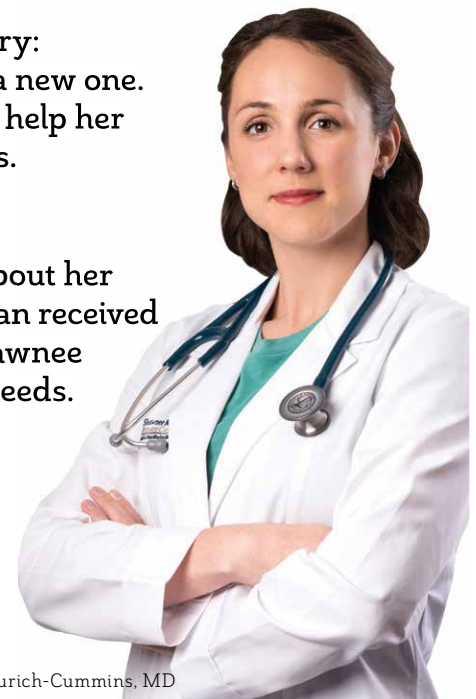


2

After answering a few, quick questions about her health care preferences and lifestyle, Megan received a list of highly qualified doctors in the Shawnee Mission Health network who match her needs.

3

Turns out, Dr. Sturich-Cummins is the doctor who Megan feels best about. (And her office is just minutes from Megan's apartment!)



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# From celluloid film to satin gowns

*Historic Mission Theatre  
transforms to modern event  
space for weddings and parties*

---

BY KRIS BAKER

---

The smell of fresh popcorn and seeing world famous stars on the big screen; this was a Friday night out with the family. The venerable building known as Mission Theatre has been making memories like these since opening as the Dickinson Theatre in 1938. In 1982 the Theatre was rebranded as the Fine Arts Theatre; then in 2006 the name was changed to Mission Theatre and hosted classic movies. Some of the earlier magic seemed to be lost; the building's condition deteriorated and the Theatre soon closed its doors for several years.

Movies may be a thing of the past but new owner Kip Unruh says it is time to make some new memories as he proudly proclaims "Mission Theatre is back," redesigned as a contemporary event space.

Unruh owns several businesses including management and construction companies and now Main Street Events, which runs Mission Theatre. Unruh saw great potential and personally supervised the renovation of this historic building, transforming it into a modern event space for weddings, parties, trade shows and other large events. Unruh says that the renovations focused on upgrading the amenities like the lights and sound system of the theater, while also keeping as much history and original touches as possible.

"This is such an iconic building, we wanted to retain the look and feel that makes this place special," Unruh remarked. "We kept everything we could, including the original concrete walls and the barrel-roof. We kept the glass blocks around the concession stand. I think it is also exciting that we have the original box office still featured prominently at the front of the Theatre."

Unruh explains that keeping

*“This is such an iconic building;  
we wanted to retain the look and feel  
that makes this place special.”*

*— Kip Unruh*

these things was important because of the history they represent. The walls are 14 inches thick, at the time this was one of the first uses of concrete walls for a theater. During the renovations, some discoveries were made like “when we tore into the drop ceiling, we discovered a barrel-vaulted wood ceiling. It was made from the original boards that were used to form the concrete walls and was covered up from the moment they finished the building in the early 1930s,” Unruh explained. “We are really looking forward to making this place come alive again.”

These original rafters are visible in the bridal loft.

Changes to the structure were needed to transform the Theatre to an event space. The renovation began in the fall of 2015. The theater floor in the main room was sloped, so 600 tons of gravel was brought in and new concrete poured to achieve a nice even floor perfect to dance on and cut loose. Separate loft bridal and groom suites were remodeled with granite counters, new lights and lots of new mirrors.

Unruh said he has assembled a strong team at Main Street Events that knows how to cater to the specific needs of every kind of bride. One enticing aspect they offer is opening as early as 9 a.m. on the event day, much earlier than many other venues. That allows extra time for the party planners to set up.

Unruh himself is no stranger to weddings as he hosted the weddings of each of his three daughters.

“We fixed up this old barn and held three weddings there,” explained Unruh. “We thought we could start bringing in other events to host at that location.”

Plans grew out of this idea and Main Street Events secured properties at 8th and Main St., in Grandview, Missouri, and the Mission Theatre. He decided to keep the name at the Mission location.

According to Unruh keeping the name “was the obvious thing to do. The name Mission Theatre is so well-known, even though keeping the name has led to some headaches.”

With the notoriety of the theater, Unruh says they have to battle some preconceived notions of what a Mission Theatre event space would be like. He says they are getting the word out and he enjoys the challenge of changing people’s minds.

“I was up for the excitement that would come with taking the Theatre over,” Unruh remarked. “It has been a pleasure talking to people and letting them know what we have here.”

Mission Theatre’s Grand Room can seat more than 300 people for meals and can accommodate more than 500 standing guests. For more information visit their website at [missiontheatrekc.com](http://missiontheatrekc.com).

“We are always adding more events,” Unruh noted. “The building goes back to the ‘30s, and we want people to continue to make memories here long into the future.”



Top: Mission Theatre owner Kip Unruh stands in front of the concession stand in his renovated event space. Many changes were needed to transform the theatre into a space to host weddings, corporate luncheons and other events, but Unruh made sure to keep as much of the signature pieces of the historic building as he could, including the glass blocks that frame the concession stand. Photo by Scott Fishman  
Below: The groom suite at Mission Theatre.



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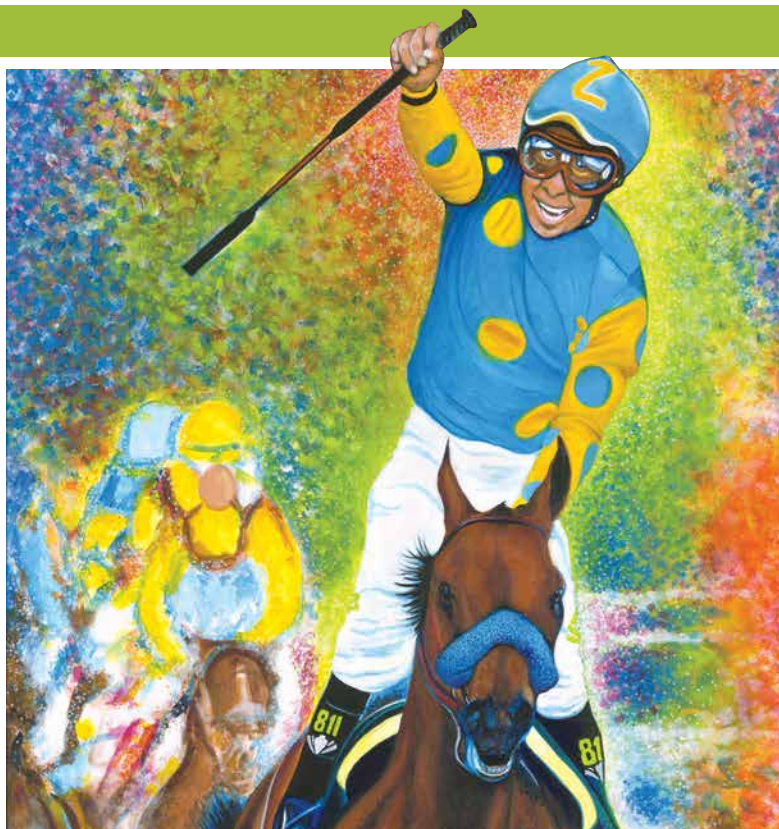
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# WALL OF HONOR



## Meaningful decorations:

Pat Milburn adds history and color to the walls and halls of Mission Square

BY KRIS BAKER • PHOTOS BY SCOTT FISHMAN

Pat Milburn is making her mark on Mission Square.

Although she and her husband didn't move into the independent senior living facility until more than a year after its opening in April 2011, she says from the first time they heard about the project they began attending meetings held at Sylvester

Powell, Jr. Community Center to learn and follow the process at Mission Square.

"I remember the first time we visited the completed facility and being thrilled by the classy, elegant décor and the comfortable, welcoming feel," Milburn offered.



## *‘Ode to Mission Square Friends’*

*In December of 2016, a year after losing her husband, Pat Milburn wrote a poem about her feelings on living in the Mission Square community.*

*Tis the month of December at ole’ Mission Square*

*I’ve some heartfelt thoughts that I’d like to share.*

*It’s time to remember, and I’m being selective*

*A year’s worth of memories, a quick retrospective.*

*We’ve enjoyed parties, each birthday was heeded.*

*So many activities, an excuse was not needed.*

*We’ve joined together, each “sister” and “brother,”*  
*with camaraderie, friendship and support of each other.*

*Our homes are our haven in all sorts of weather.*

*Through stress and good times, we’re in it together.*

*So thanks to you all, you brighten my days*

*and add to my life in so many ways.*



Mission Square is a relatively small building, with only 55 homes. Because of this, Milburn says there is a “need for everyone to chip in” mentality, “which makes our many activities well attended and successful.”

“Each person who moves into Mission Square brings their unique qualities and personality to help create the wonderful atmosphere we enjoy,” Milburn said. “Over the years, if a new resident arrives with a special interest or talent that

we’re not offering, we encourage them to start a group of like-minded residents.”

Milburn has brought her unique personality to Mission Square with two signature projects, one that honors American heroes and another that brightens up every season.

## *Wall of Honor celebrates veterans*

Along an ordinary wall just down the hall from the Mission Square dining room is a very special display. An American flag stands next to two rows of frames, which hold pictures, badges and certificates.

This is Mission Square’s Wall of Honor, where every resident who served in the military is acknowledged for his service. With representatives from the U.S. Army, Navy, Public Health Service and Air Force, with service dating back to World War II, the wall serves as a patriotic reminder of the lives many of the male residents at Mission Square lived years ago.

After seeing a similar tribute to veterans at another community,

Mission Square Executive Director Kevin Blom liked the idea. He immediately knew just the person to recruit to turn the idea into the special tribute it has become.

Milburn agreed it was a wonderful idea. She started by making a template for the certificates that would hang on the wall. She enlisted Mel Minnis, one of the retired Naval officers living at Mission Square, to gather the pertinent military information from each veteran and take current photos of them. As Milburn completed a draft of the certificate for each man, she invited him to meet with her to view it for accuracy.

“These visits were very meaningful to me as we visited about a time in their lives that many had tucked away and not thought about for a long time,” noted Milburn. “We asked each vet for a military photo which proved to be extremely interesting. It was such fun to see these wonderful, seasoned citizens when they were 18 to 20-years-old, handsome, scrubbed clean and ready to start their lives.”

“When we first discussed adding the wall, many of the veterans declined to participate. Every one of them said, ‘I’m not a hero,’ recalled Blom. “It’s typical of men in that generation to say being in the service and being in the war wasn’t heroic but they never questioned their commitment. They say, ‘we got called and we went.’”

The wall was unveiled on Veteran’s Day 2015 at a ceremony featuring Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Col. Don Ballard of Blue Springs, one of the less than 80 Medal of Honor recipients in the country. Col. Ballard spoke and then presented the framed certificate to each of the veterans.

“The honoring of our resident veterans is probably my favorite project at Mission Square,” Milburn revealed. “I know this was a meaningful recognition for our military veterans and everyone who attended the program was touched.”

# Centerpieces at the center

of excitement for events  
at Mission Square

Mardi Gras, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Fourth of July, Oktoberfest ... no matter the occasion, the dining room at Mission Square is filled with colorful centerpiece arrangements to commemorate the holiday. The centerpieces are the labor of love of Pat Milburn, who wanted to contribute to the festivities with her homemade creations. For holidays, seasonal events and monthly themed dinners, Milburn has crafted an appropriate centerpiece, averaging about two a month. These centerpieces have become a much-anticipated part of Mission Square life and celebrations.

"I've had many family members of our residents tell me 'the first thing I do when I come to visit is make a stop in the dining room to see what you've done,'" said Milburn. "I've had residents bring their family members to meet me and ask questions. If there's something they'd like to replicate, I'm always happy to explain or if I've created a pattern for something they're interested in, I'm always willing to share."

Residents appreciate Milburn's unique talent, and many have given her complimentary notes saying just that. In fact, her neighbors know she is always on the lookout for treasures that others would consider trash and help her collect them.

One of these "treasures," red straws, became Fourth of July firecrackers with the addition of a length of string for the wick while a bundle of 10 white straws became a Grecian column with a water bottle cap to complete the ionic capital. Cardstock, beads and embroidery floss were used to create flip flops for a beach scene in a luau centerpiece, while popsicle sticks became the lumber for miniature Adirondack chairs and picnic benches for Father's Day centerpieces.

Pat Milburn creates colorful centerpieces that she uses to adorn the tables at Mission Square dining room.



The most unusual trash turned into a Milburn creation could be sleep machine filters. Before a Mission Square resident discarded the wrong filters, he asked Milburn if she wanted them. At the time she wasn't sure if she could use them, but she took them.

"Several months later when I was making 'Back to School' centerpieces, those filters ended up being a good facsimile of blackboards erasers."

Milburn says the question she is most frequently asked is "Where and how do you get all your ideas?"

"I don't have an answer, but know it's an internal process," Milburn remarked. "When I think of the occasion, appropriate colors come first, and then ideas start spontaneously popping in my head. I have done creative projects all my life and I can't remember ever lacking ideas. I've been known to mention that 'I won't live long enough to use them all.'"

There are 13 permanent tables in the dining room and Milburn makes a two-sided centerpiece for each table so that a person can enjoy a full view wherever they are sitting. Although she gets many offers of assistance, she says since her husband passed away she generally creates alone.

"It keeps my mind and hands busy and out of trouble," Milburn said. "My daughter says it's my best form of therapy, and I think she's right."





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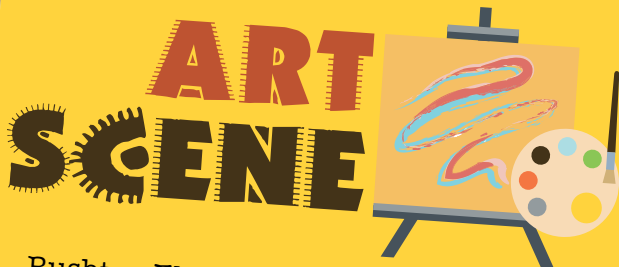
# Mission Bulletin Board

## FIRST FRIDAY FAMILY FUN NIGHT AT COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN

Bring your family and friends for an evening of fun and fellowship every First Friday at 6 p.m. A bingo game for prizes - like gift cards to favorite restaurants or stores will follow a \$2 meal. Countryside Christian Church is located at 6101 Nall, and all are welcomed. For more information, call 913-262-1000.



## Rushton Elementary School Art Show



Rushton Elementary will host an art show from 6-8 p.m. on Friday, April 21, at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center. There will be a performance by Rushton Choir; the event is free to the public.

## Did you know that?

Officer Tim Gift started with the Mission Police Department in December 2009. As a hobby, he writes and plays primarily rock or folk music. In 2010, Tim released a solo electric album on iTunes titled Searching for Meaning.



## Scavenger Hunt

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## Dorwin Lamkin now the last local Pearl Harbor survivor

Dorwin Lamkin, 93, is now the only Kansas City area military survivor of the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor that led to U.S. involvement in World War II. The only other local survivor, Edmund Russell, 99, died in August. Lamkin was a corpsman on the USS Nevada at Pearl Harbor. A Mission resident for many years, Lamkin now lives at Brookdale Shawnee.





Rachelle Gardner-Roe holds the sculpture that serves as the model for the awards given at the ArtsKC 2017 awards luncheon.

## *Mission artist garnering acclaim, attention with her works of lace art*

BY KRIS BAKER • PHOTOS BY SCOTT FISHMAN

A single thread interconnects with another, and then another until an entire web-like pattern comes together. This is how lace is made, and for artist Rachelle Gardner-Roe, lace is an important component in her art which helps her achieve balance.

The balance in her work can be represented by soft, domestic fabrics like the lace she combines with hard, industrial resin to create dimensional sculptures. Other times she writes layer upon layer of cursive text to create images with a lace-like effect. Then later she may take to the sewing machine and actually use it as a drawing tool to stitch pictures in lace. She says lace has attracted her because it is made up of countless individual threads coming together to create an interdependent network with endless possibilities.

“Seeking, finding balance through my work is important to me,” Gardner-Roe said.

She used to make her own lace, but this proved to be too time-consuming and didn’t give her enough material to meet her process.

“I couldn’t be free to fail,” offered Gardner-Roe. “I had to be

careful with the lace I had and it was not working. I have to be able to take risks to get to what I want.”

Gardner-Roe knew she wanted to be an artist when she was only 5 years old. Her mother was an art teacher and her father a psychologist, and both influenced her as did her early trips to the Nelson-Atkins Museum. Her mother taught her how to make tiny pillows for her dolls on a sewing machine, and she learned how to cross-stitch embroidery, despite failing at knitting.

“Being an artist was never a choice,” explained Gardner-Roe. “My whole life I have looked at something and thought, ‘how was that put together?’ ‘How would I make that?’ I saw things and thought, ‘I could do that, what process would I use?’ Then I always had a desire to create.”

In college Gardner-Roe studied interior architecture instead of going to art school. She says this background helped her as an artist in learning a process for building and putting different elements together.

- Continued on page 20

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Gardner-Roe in front of her lace style portrait; this style portrait was displayed at the Power & Light stop on the downtown streetcar line.

- Continued from page 18

"It also helped with my comfort level using big, scary power tools in very high-pressure situations," she said with a laugh. "Lots of what I do has benefitted from that background. And it got me my first job of designing furniture."

She was soon drawn back to fine arts, working in mixed media and different textiles before landing on lace. It was then that her career really began to take shape.

## Weaving a web of projects

Like the interconnected threads in fabric, Gardner-Roe has a network of projects she is continuously working on. Last summer riders of the downtown streetcar saw one of her figurative portraits at the Power & Light District stop, part of their "Art on the Line" project.

Another honor came her way as she was selected the featured visual artist at the ArtsKC 2017 awards luncheon at the Kansas City Convention Center, Feb. 23. Six unique works of art by Gardner-Roe were specially commissioned and presented as awards to the organizations and individuals honored at the event for their leadership in the arts. She also designed the original artwork displayed on all tables.

For the awards she decided to create new lace sculptures, following a process she invented over the years. The theme of

the event was "Electrify" so she added a new wrinkle by inserting some electricity to the sculptures with touch-activated lights.

To see more of Gardner-Roe's work and to purchase any of her pieces, visit her website at [gardner-roe.com](http://gardner-roe.com) or send an email to [rachelle@gardner-roe.com](mailto:rachelle@gardner-roe.com).

## One more piece of the pie

A project that Gardner-Roe is especially excited about is her new podcast series at [www.KCArtPie.com](http://www.KCArtPie.com) that launches in March with the project *Femin \* Is*. The series will examine historical and contemporary feminism in the Kansas City arts scene and lead up to an exhibition opening on the First Friday of June in the Crossroads Arts District. Listeners will be able to hear from local artists, musicians, writers, curators and more.

"Kansas City has a really rich art scene, and it's exciting to be

able to dive right in," noted Gardner-Roe. "I am learning so much from the people I talk to. So far, I have interviewed a poet, a folk band, ceramist, a painter with the arts coalition and one of the founders of The Writer's Place. I hope everyone can give it a listen

and see what a diverse group of artist we have here."

Diverse arts interconnecting on this show may be one more example of Gardner-Roe finding balance in art.

*"I have to be able to take risks  
to get to what I want."*

Rachelle Gardner-Roe

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# CITY OF MISSION

## Newsletter

MARCH 2017  
VOLUME 12, ISSUE 1  
WWW.MISSIONKS.ORG

### JO CO GO!

The City is pleased to partner with the NE Johnson County Chamber and the Mission Business Partnership to sponsor the first JO CO GO! mobile scavenger hunt event. The event is scheduled for Thursday, May 18th from 4 to 7 p.m.

Designed to promote local businesses and encourage networking and teambuilding,

**Northeast  
Johnson County**  
chamber of commerce

teams of 3-4 members will decipher clues to determine locations where they will complete challenges, hunt for scavenger items, and complete photo opportunities. The event concludes with dinner, prizes and even some pickle ball at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center.

Sponsorship opportunities are limited, so call today to have your business included in this event. For more information on the event, to sponsor a "stop," or to register a team visit the Chamber's website at [www.nejcchamber.com/jocogo](http://www.nejcchamber.com/jocogo) or call Michael Poppa at 913-262-2141.



### MEET YOUR GOVERNING BODY



Front row (L to R): Arcie Rothrock, Ward 2; Debbie Kring, Ward 3; Suzie Gibbs, Ward 4; Kristin Inman, Ward 3. Back row (L to R): Pat Quinn, Ward 1; Tom Geraghty, Ward 1; Steve Schowengerdt, Mayor; Nick Schlossmacher, Ward 2; Ron Appletoft, Ward 4.

### JOHNSON DRIVE NOW 25 MPH



The Mission City Council voted in December 2016 to lower the speed limit on Johnson Drive between Lamar and Roe Avenues from 30 miles per hour (mph) to 25 mph. The change went into effect on January 10, 2017 and is meant to reduce traffic speeds to be more in line with the pedestrian character of the downtown area. Those travelling in the area are urged to use caution and be considerate of others (pedestrians and drivers) in the area at all times.

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

We are always happy to see new businesses, new or renovated buildings, and other improvements in Mission, but we don't always appreciate the individual investments that go along with progress. Mission is fortunate to have a variety of people, community groups, and businesses that are willing to invest in our community – and we thank them for this.

This past fall, Christ Church Anglican selected Mission for their new location. Rather than building a “bricks and mortar” church, the congregation meets each week at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center. This is a great gathering space that accommodates their needs and brings many to our City. Christ Church is committed to community service and their impact can be seen throughout the year. Their members volunteer at the Mission Farm & Flower Market, adopt families for the Holiday Adoption Program, help with Thanksgiving baskets and gift wrapping, and lend a hand during the neighborhood clean-up events. Although their investment in Mission was not in the form of a building, we are grateful for the support they provide to the people who live in and visit Mission.

As a part of their investment in the Mission Crossing project, Lane4 Development donated the land at the corner of Martway and Broadmoor for a pocket park – Legacy Park. The center pavilion was dedicated as Gibbs Plaza last fall and we are now moving ahead to complete the landscaping. The Celebration Tree Program is an opportunity for you to make an investment in this park – or others – by donating a tree to celebrate a special person or event in your life. Each donated tree may also have a plaque identifying the person or event that is being honored. We can't underestimate the impact and difference trees make in



Mission, and the new trees that are planted will be enjoyed for years to come. If you would like to donate a tree, please contact Christy Humerickhouse, Director of Parks & Recreation, at 913-722-8200 or [chumerickhouse@missionks.org](mailto:chumerickhouse@missionks.org).

The City has invested in making Johnson Drive more pedestrian friendly by improving the entire streetscape in our downtown district. Recently, the City Council approved reducing the speed limit from 30 mph to 25 mph on Johnson Drive between Lamar and Roe, and adding LED lights to the pedestrian beacons. We want the area to be as safe as possible for those walking and driving, so please remember to slow down and be aware as pedestrians cross the street. Slower traffic also makes it easier to see the many businesses that call Johnson Drive home.

Our annual Bunny Eggstravaganza will be Saturday, April 15th at 10:00 a.m. at the Community Center and the Food Truck Kick-off Party for the Mission Farm & Flower Market is scheduled for May 2nd, so please mark your calendars for both. The Market will begin its regular season on Saturday, May 6th and we're looking forward to another great season with many returning vendors and some new ones too!

Sincerely,

Steve Schowengerdt  
Mayor

## 2017 ELECTIONS

In 2017, Mission will hold elections for mayor and one city council seat in each ward. Terms are for four years and all municipal elections in Mission are nonpartisan. If you are interested in running for office, please contact the City Clerk for additional information – [msumrall@missionks.org](mailto:msumrall@missionks.org) / 913-676-8355 or the Johnson County Election Office at 913-715-6800.

A listing of important dates for the 2017 elections, including the deadline to file to run for office in Mission, is included here:

### 2017 Election Calendar

|                   |                                                    |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>June 1</b>     | <b>Filing and withdrawal deadline (12:00 noon)</b> |
| <b>July 11</b>    | Last day to register to vote                       |
| <b>July 12</b>    | Advance voting by mail begins                      |
| <b>July 24</b>    | Advance voting in person begins at Election Office |
| <b>July 31</b>    | Advance voting in person closes (12:00 noon)       |
| <b>August 1</b>   | Fall primary election (if necessary)               |
| <b>October 17</b> | Last day to register to vote                       |
| <b>October 18</b> | Advance voting by mail begins                      |
| <b>October 31</b> | Advance voting in person begins                    |
| <b>November 6</b> | Advance voting in person closes (12:00 noon)       |
| <b>November 7</b> | <b>Fall General Election</b>                       |

*Candidates elected in November 2017 will take office in January 2018.*

## ONE CALL AND YOU'RE THERE!

Johnson County has launched OneAssist, a single telephone number for callers seeking assistance from county health and human service agencies. One call to 913-715-8989 now connects residents to an individual who will direct them to the correct agency or department. The range of services includes immunizations, aging services, utility assistance, mental health services and much more.

## *The City of Mission remembers*

*Thomas F. Wells, Jr.  
who passed away on  
January 2, 2017.*

*Tom was a long-time  
resident of Mission  
and served on the City  
Council from 1976-1978.*



## HOUSEHOLD BATTERY RECYCLING PROGRAM CELEBRATES ONE YEAR OF SUCCESS

After a year of operations, the Mission Sustainability Commission's household battery recycling program has received great community response, collecting more than 384 pounds of batteries to be recycled.

The program, launched in February 2016, allows Mission residents to recycle many different types of common household batteries including alkaline, nickel cadmium, and lithium ion. A full list of what is accepted is available on the Sustainability Commission's webpage at [missionks.org](http://missionks.org).

While the single-use battery recycling program primarily focuses on lithium batteries, it also diverts alkaline materials from landfills as well. Lithium batteries should be individually



bagged, or prepared with clear tape over the terminals.

Those who are interested in recycling batteries can look for the green boxes at City Hall (6090 Woodson) or at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center (6200 Martway).

Residents who are interested in recycling other items beyond what is collected in curbside bins can check [recyclespot.org](http://recyclespot.org) for additional information.



## MISSION FARM & FLOWER MARKET OPENING SOON

**Celebrate the return of the Mission Farm and Flower Market!**  
*5613 Johnson Drive - Just east of Nall Avenue*

### Food Truck Kick-Off Party

**Tuesday, May 2, 2017 | 4:30pm-7:30pm**

Food trucks, drinks, live music and fun!

### Opening Day at the Market

**Saturday, May 6, 2017 | 8am-1pm**

New and returning vendors, live music, Saturdays through October!

If you're interested in participating this year as a vendor, volunteer, sponsor or in some other way, please email [market@missionks.org](mailto:market@missionks.org).

We can't wait to see you at the Market!

## NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

Mission offers a variety of assistance programs for our residents, including the Community Rebate Program, Stormwater Best Management Practices Grant, Mission Possible, and Neighborhood Grant. We can also assist you with information on various programs available through Johnson County.

### Community Rebate Program

With a new program year underway, income-eligible residents can now apply for the Community Rebate Program to receive a rebate of some franchise fees and taxes paid. A full rebate of telephone, electric or gas franchise fees, and Mission property taxes, and a partial rebate of solid waste utility fees is available within the program guidelines. This program is administered on a first come, first served basis. Applications are available on our website at [www.missionks.org](http://www.missionks.org) or by contacting Neighborhood Services Officer Nilo Fanska at [nfanska@missionks.org](mailto:nfanska@missionks.org) / 913-676-8358.

### Stormwater BMP Grant

If you are interested in incorporating stormwater best management practices (BMP) into your landscape, the City can assist with related costs. The Stormwater BMP Grant encourages homeowners and businesses to add certain landscaping improvements to their property to help improve local and regional water quality. Following proper installation, the program reimburses up to 50% of eligible expenses (not to exceed project reimbursement cap) for the projects listed below:

- **Rain barrel** - \$75 per barrel, up to two
- **Native tree planting** - \$100 per tree up to two
- **Rain garden** - \$1,000
- **Native planting stream buffer/swale** - \$1,000

*For additional information on the Stormwater BMP Grant, contact Neighborhood Services at 913-676-8360.*

### Deffenbaugh Trash Collection

The City of Mission contracts with Deffenbaugh Industries for trash collection. Deffenbaugh recently updated their website and customer service contact information - if you have questions, concerns or need additional information on services provided, you may reach Deffenbaugh in the following ways:

**Phone:** 1-800-964-8988

**Email:** [customerservice@deffenbaughinc.com](mailto:customerservice@deffenbaughinc.com)

**Website:** [www.wm.com](http://www.wm.com)

*Our Neighborhood Services Department is also available to assist you with concerns regarding trash collection.*

## 2017 CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

**A**pply now for Mission's 2017 Citizens Police Academy. This 10-week program runs Thursday evenings from March 2nd through May 4th with classes beginning at 6:30 p.m. Participants will be introduced to investigations (criminal, death, other), patrol operations, DUI and traffic enforcement, less-lethal weapons and firearms, interview and interrogation techniques, domestic violence situations and responses, search and seizure, and defensive tactics.

Behind the scenes tours of the Johnson County Adult Detention Center, Emergency Communications Center, and Criminalistics Laboratory are also scheduled. Graduates will have future opportunities to assist the Police Department at volunteer events.

Academy size is limited to 20 participants. There is no cost to participate in the Academy, but applicants must reside or work in Mission, be at least 18 years of age, and pass a background check. Applications are available by contacting Sgt. Kevin Self at [kself@missionks.org](mailto:kself@missionks.org) / 913-676-8330.



## KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOUR CITY!

**T**here are many ways to learn about what's happening at the City. Take your pick or sign up for all of the options below and get all the news!

### Follow us on social media for:

- City news @CityofMissionKS on Facebook and Twitter
- Parks & Recreation news @SylvesterPowellCC on Facebook
- Mission Farm and Flower Market @missionksmarket on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram
- We also post periodic updates on NextDoor.com

### Email updates

Sign up to receive a monthly recap of actions taken at each City Council meeting, upcoming events and City news. Sign up at [missionks.org/notifications](http://missionks.org/notifications)

### Web updates

When new content you care about is added to [missionks.org](http://missionks.org), you have the option of receiving an e-notification sent to your inbox. You can choose what you want to receive: Council agendas, upcoming events, job postings, and more. Sign up at [missionks.org/notifications](http://missionks.org/notifications)

### NotifyJoCo

Notify JoCo is a mass notification system designed to keep Johnson County residents and businesses informed of emergencies and certain non-emergency events by text, phone or email. Sign up at [notifyjoco.org](http://notifyjoco.org).

And remember, all City Council, Committee, and Board and Commission meetings are open to the public. Check out the meeting times and agendas online and attend!



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@SylvesterPowellCC  
@missionksmarket



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## MISSION CITY HALL

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Phone: 913-676-8350 • Fax: 913-722-1415 • [www.missionks.org](http://www.missionks.org)

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

1st Wednesday every month, 6:30 p.m.  
(overflow business considered on the second Wednesday  
of the month as necessary, 6:30 p.m.)

### CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

3rd Wednesday every month, 7:00 p.m.

### COUNCIL WORKSESSIONS

4th Wednesday every month, 7:00 p.m.

*All meetings are open to the public.*

## GOVERNING BODY

Mayor Steve Schowengerdt.....913-481-3235  
City Hall Office.....913-676-8350

### COUNCILMEMBERS WARD I

Tom Geraghty .....816-808-8512  
Pat Quinn.....913-207-3106

### COUNCILMEMBERS WARD II

Archie Rothrock .....913-568-2872  
Nick Schlossmacher.....913-788-6425

### COUNCILMEMBERS WARD III

Kristin Inman .....816-510-7698  
Debbie Kring.....913-722-6901

### COUNCILMEMBERS WARD IV

Ron Appletoft.....913-677-1706  
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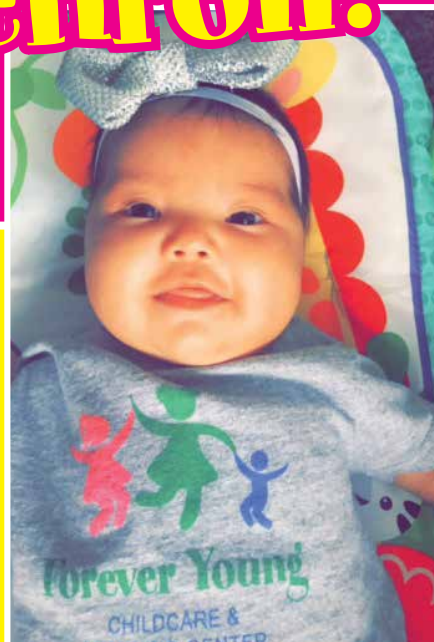
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Michael and Jenna Beardé stand behind the reception desk at BEARDÉ Salon. The desk was repurposed from the bar of a barn they purchased.

# A CUT ABOVE

*Michael Beardé brings new ideas to his remodeled salon*

BY KRIS BAKER • PHOTOS BY SCOTT FISHMAN



The hair is flying as two brushes dart through the air, shaping the woman's long hair. The stylist moves quickly, but with fine precision, the brushes curling and twisting, creating a new, hip look for his client. The audience of about 50 takes note of his technique, realizing that Michael Beardé makes it look easy.

Beardé of BEARDÉ Salon, 5616 Johnson Drive, is a platform artist with Colorproof Evolved Color Care. That means about every six weeks, he travels around the world and on a raised platform will demonstrate to other hairstylists techniques he has learned over the years. Ultimately, he brings these new hairstyling trends and ideas back to his salon in Mission.

"I have gone to places like London, Vancouver, Los Angeles, New York and Toronto, places at the forefront of style," offered Beardé. "I love that I can bring what I learn around the world back to my hometown."

## FREE FORM STYLE

Beardé started working in his mother's shop as a child sweeping up hair. He's been styling hair for 23 years, and since 2004 he has used a free form style, where the blueprint is to follow the natural fall of the hair.

"I follow the natural lines of the hair which results in the best look."

Part of being a free form stylist is using twin combs and twin brushes while sculpting the hair. Beardé never actually touches the hair with his hands.

"Once you touch the hair with your hands, you lose that natural fall," explained Beardé. "You can't get it back."

He is one of a very few free form hairstylists. Beardé learned the technique from Phillip Wilson, with whom he studied for more than a decade and who helped him become a platform artist. Through the years Beardé has attended Vidal Sassoon's Academy, worked for five years as an educator for L'Oréal and has been a platform artist for Wella and FHI Heat. Beardé has also applied his talents to many fashion shows for large brands like Versace and

- Continued on page 32



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Michael Beardé in action as he cuts the hair of his client, gallery owner Patricia B. Glenn. Beardé is a free form stylist, which means he uses twin brushes and combs when he cuts and doesn't touch the hair with his hands. According to Glenn, 'I have got my hair cut all over the world, and no one does as good a job as Michael.'

- Continued from page 30

Guess. He says some of the most fun moments he has had as a hairstylist are when he has worked on the hair of specialty clients, including Bon Jovi, local NBC news anchors and world famous models.

"I have been lucky to try my hand at a lot of different things," noted Beardé. "Being a platform artist, you are educating but you are also performing. It's like juggling a couple of different talents. You are performing for 50 to 150 people so you have to take care to reach everyone."

In between traveling the world, Beardé also runs classes right here in Mission. Directly above the salon is The Loft by BEARDÉ, a 1,200-square-foot education center that offers continuing education classes for current stylists. Here, stylists have one-on-one experience with Beardé. The space can also be rented out for group events.

Last November, BEARDÉ Salon was featured in Beauty Launchpad, a global beauty magazine, where the salon was named a 2016 Reader's Choice Award Winner.

## ECO-SALON

Part of the education stylists receive at The Loft is how to use sustainable, environmentally friendly products. All the styling products Beardé uses are 100 percent organic. From the hair products to the paper towels, everything is natural and biodegradable. There are 10 stylist chairs in the salon and all the stylists are expected to meet Beardé's ecological standards.

"We provide all the products for our stylists, and they have all been happy to learn and make the change," explained Beardé. "We have a strong team of designers and they are excited to be a part of this."

Beardé's wife Jenna explained they use natural products because salons can create a lot of waste and be destructive to the surrounding area.

"We wanted to make sure we created a small carbon footprint and our products are the best for our clients and for the earth," she said.

Beardé said he always wanted to become a stylist, even as he folded towels in his mother's salon as a kid.

"To see what the salon has become, it has been a dream come true."

# AT THE BARN

Michael Beardé met his wife Jenna when she came in to the salon to get a haircut. They quickly learned they shared the same love of the environment and the same vision of running an environmentally responsible business. When it came time to renovate the BEARDÉ Salon, they wanted to create a one-of-kind experience where clients would experience an atmosphere with organic products, repurposed materials and a sustainable environment.

So when the couple saw an ad for the sale of an old barn, they had an idea. They wanted to renovate the salon, which has been a Mission business for 37 years, in an environmentally friendly way. They bought the barn, re-using the wood and roofing to completely renovate the salon. Now rustic wood and corrugated metal decorate the walls of BEARDÉ Salon. A bar that the previous owner had put in for his daughter's wedding is now being used as their front desk; solar lights are being added.

"Over 90 percent of the products we used were recycled," said Beardé. "That is how I live my life and that is how I want to run my business."

*The renovated BEARDÉ Salon is open; to make an appointment, call 913-432-2075.*



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## New church gets active in the community, offering service and fellowship

BY KRIS BAKER

In early 2015, Christ Church Overland Park Senior Pastor Patrick Wildman asked Nick Comiskey to lead an effort to start a new congregation in northeast Johnson County. A team was put in place, traveling to different cities to find the right home for this new offshoot of Christ Church. As Comiskey was looking for a location for this new branch he was reminded of Jeremiah 29:7 “Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

“The relationship between a church and the city is important, and when we started talking to people in Mission, we knew this was the right place,” explained Comiskey. “This was a place where we could really join and help out in the community. This felt like the best decision.”

The Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center was chosen as the meeting place for Christ Church Mission, with Comiskey serving as the pastor. Their first services were held Sept. 18, 2016. Being in the heart of the city helped the new church become more a part of the community, as did the welcoming attitude of the citizens. Civic,

business and education leaders were all consulted.

“The mayor has been amazing, so has the police chief and all the city officials,” Comiskey revealed. “Everyone in Mission has been so generous and made us feel really at home. Every business we have visited has been so accommodating, we are really grateful for all the early support.”

Comiskey believes that one of the jobs of any church is to make their community a better place to live. To accomplish this, Christ Church Mission has gotten involved in several city efforts. They set up a booth at the Farmers Market to assist in meeting people. They have set up life groups — small groups that meet at members’ homes — to discuss issues. When a call was put out to help at the Walmer Homestead clean-up (the neighborhood behind Hy-Vee), more than 50 volunteers came to work, bringing lunch to share with the other volunteers. They filled dumpsters with trash, mowed lawns, raked leaves and hauled away bulk items. Another clean-up in Mission is planned for this spring.

Last Christmas, Christ Church adopted eight families through



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Mission's Adopt a Family program. Additionally, the church has teamed-up with Rushton Elementary School for the Generosity Feeds event to assist students who need help affording school lunch. An ongoing relationship with Rushton has the church helping with the school's activities such as organizing a spelling bee and working with the PTA to plan other events.

"We want to help meet these practical needs in the community," declared Comiskey. "Serving locally is important. There are real needs here, like the kids in Mission who need assistance paying for school lunch. So, when there are serious issues right in our own backyard, that's where we have been trying to help."

That help takes many forms, including bringing the community together for a big party. Christ Church hosted an "Endless Summer BBQ" last fall in the parking lot of Mission Bowl. The event was a huge success for Christ Church showing people what the church is all about.

"Churches don't have to be somber, dour places," Comiskey explained.

"There is joy and celebration and we want people to experience that. We are a young church and we have some new ideas that really seem to resonate. We have done the research and found new churches have better success at reaching out to those that may be disconnected from a church. A lot of people are looking for the happiness and social aspect a church community can offer. Jesus uses some strong metaphors about salt. In the ancient world salt was used as a preservative, but salt gives food flavor and makes it tasty. Barbecues and festivals add to the flavor of life."



Comiskey says they are a mixed-age church, with a diverse population of young families and senior residents, which also reflects the population of the City of Mission. The congregation continues to grow, having already doubled in size since September. Sometime in the next couple of years, the church will look for a building to call its own.

But for now the Community Center meets all their needs with ample space. Christ Church Mission holds services every Sunday at 10 a.m.. The café, which serves coffees and lattes, opens at 9:30 a.m., made with care by Comiskey's wife, Meghan Comiskey.

"We are servants of the city," Comiskey said. "We are planning one to three big events for the year, but after that, we want to get involved with the great programs Mission already has. We just want to get involved, making this city an even better place to be."

Christ Church Mission took part in the Walmer Homestead neighborhood cleanup. Christ Church brought over 50 volunteers who raked leaves, mowed lawns, filled dumpsters and hauled away items. Afterwards they served lunch to the other volunteers.



**"Everyone  
in Mission  
has been so  
generous and  
made us feel  
really at home."**

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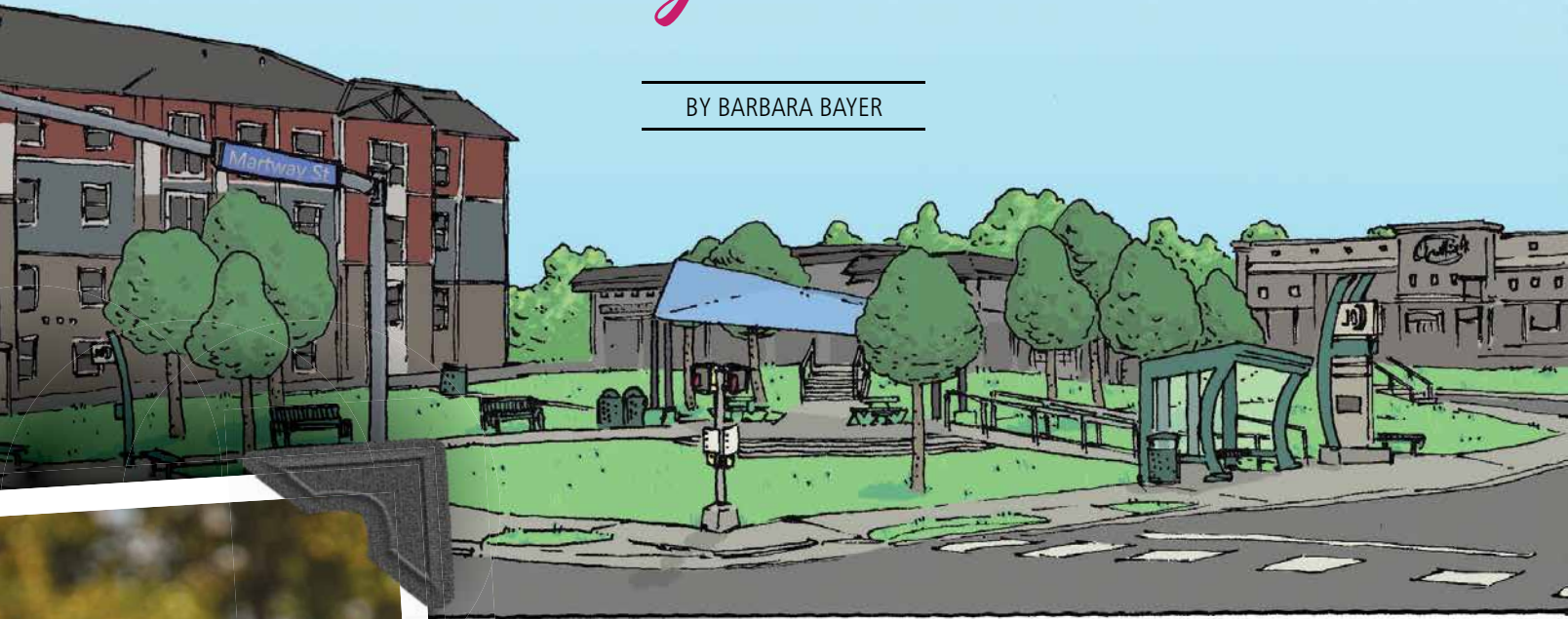
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**Christ Church**  
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# Gibbs Plaza inside Legacy Park honors City Councilmember

BY BARBARA BAYER



*"It truly is a beautiful  
gift, not just for me  
but for my family  
and the city."*

-Suzie Gibbs

In front of a group of more than 200 people on an unseasonably warm day in late October, the City of Mission dedicated Legacy Park, the eighth park in the City's park system. The park is located at the corner of Martway and Broadmoor Streets. The land, along with \$100,000 to be used for construction, was donated to the City by Mission Crossing developer Lane4 Property Group.

The name Legacy Park was chosen to honor all those who have contributed to Mission's growth and success throughout the years, which was especially fitting as the park opened during the City of Mission's 65th birthday year. The shade structure within the park was dedicated as Gibbs Plaza in honor of Councilmember Suzie Gibbs, who has served the city in a variety of capacities for almost 40 years as a member of the City Council, Mission City Clerk and chairperson of the Mission Business Development Committee/Mission Convention and Visitors Bureau. She also co-owned a small business in Downtown Mission for six years.

"The Council decided it was fitting to name this central gathering area after Suzie because she is the heart and soul of Mission," explained City Administrator Laura Smith.

When Gibbs first heard the idea, her first response was to refuse the honor, telling city officials, "I don't do any of this on my own."

But backers of the plan pushed forward, reminding Gibbs that she is "the spark and motivation for making the community a better place." Gibbs is humbled to share her name with the gathering area.

"Everybody loves Mission and whenever I'm working on a project, such as the family adoptions we do at Thanksgiving and Christmas, I don't have to ask for anything. People just love it when good things are happening in Mission."

Gibbs has had coffee with friends at the park several times since the dedication and thinks it will be a great place to picnic and visit with friends. She still can't quite get over the fact that the gathering area was named in her honor.

"I felt very honored," said Gibbs. "It truly is a beautiful gift, not just for me but for my family and the city."

One of the best ways she can describe her feelings about Gibbs Plaza is through the lyrics of an old song by James Cleveland called "Give Me My Flowers" that a close friend recently shared with her:

*"Give me my flowers  
While I yet live  
So that I can see the beauty  
That they bring."*



# BUNNY EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center (North Side)  
Saturday, April 15th, 2017  
10:00am-12:00pm (See Individual Hunt Times Below)

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## EGG HUNT TIMES

|                                 |         |
|---------------------------------|---------|
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| 1 ½- 3 Yrs. (no parents)        | 10:50am |
| 1 ½- 3 Yrs. (with parent)       | 10:50am |
| 4-6 Yrs.                        | 11:10am |
| 7-9 Yrs.                        | 11:30am |



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| Mohawk Park<br>67th & Lamar          |                            |                |                             | ✓           |               |                 | .4                    | 1             | 1               | ✓             |            |
| Legacy Park<br>6000 Broadmoor        |                            |                | ✓                           |             |               |                 |                       |               |                 | ✓             |            |
| Park on Beverly<br>5935 Beverly      |                            |                | ✓                           |             |               |                 |                       |               |                 |               |            |
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