

DECEMBER 2022/JANUARY 2023



mission *Kansas*



A LIFELONG LOVE OF TOYS

Brothers Music owners turn hobby
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EACH MEAL A MEMORY

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CELEBRATE LIVING, LAUGHING, AND CONNECTING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Wow, we're coming to the close of 2022! This year will always be a memorable one for me as it marks my first year as Mission's Mayor. It has been a privilege to serve our City and to watch it grow and prosper — thanks to all of you who make it such an amazing place. Serving in local government, I've been so fortunate to hear and experience stories from our rich and diverse collection of residents and businesses. Each voice in our community brings something unique and valuable, and I am proud that the Mission Magazine provides us with a very visible way to celebrate our connections.

As this final issue of 2022 came together, I was struck by the joy and enthusiasm of Kyle Maggart as he shared about the toys and collectibles he is curating for his customers at Brothers Toys and Collectibles. Offering up vintage and new toys for both collectors and the general public is a fun compliment to the Brothers Music business that has already been serving as a draw to Downtown Mission.

The memories we have around the special toys we had as kids, or the thrill in finding the hottest new trends for a loved one as an adult both evoke a sense of wonder and magic, especially during the holiday season. If only I'd kept my Polly Pockets and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles from the 90s!

Our next story in this issue shares the excitement building for both our Rushton elementary families and our entire community as a new era of learning begins with the construction of a new Rushton Elementary building in Mission.

Beginning in January, students will attend school at the old Westwood View Elementary building until the fall of 2024



On the cover:
Kyle Maggart, co-owner of Brothers Toys and Collectibles in Mission.

Photo by Denise Elam.



when they will return to a completely rebuilt state-of-the-art Rushton. We're thankful for the investment of the Shawnee

Mission School District in our students and our City.

In this issue you will also find a story highlighting the collaborative, successful partnership that has developed among two neighboring businesses. Did you know that you can order food from WingStand by Jefferson's at Sully's Pub? And that WingStand encourages its customers to check out Sully's as the perfect game day spot?

These two businesses are showing us that thinking creatively and working with your neighbors can be mutually beneficial. It doesn't hurt that this partnership is built on delicious food and cold beer, but it is a great example of the positive things that can happen when we are willing to think "outside the box."

Both venues serve as important gathering places where friends and family can enjoy time together, and we're glad to have them here in Mission.

Our last feature story in this issue highlights the lasting connections that are passed down through traditions ... and recipes. Kelsey Gibbs brings us a favorite holiday recipe from her grandmother, the late Suzie Gibbs, and shares how being able to cook from treasured recipes makes it feel like they are together again.

Food, especially holiday food, can evoke strong memories of times shared with others and this story serves as the perfect reminder that there are so many different ways to honor, respect, and appreciate all those who made you who you are today.

I wish you well as we head into this new year, and encourage you to spend time this season to celebrate living, laughing, and connecting with the people who are important to you. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you. I'm looking forward to what 2023 has in store!

-Sollie Flora, Mayor

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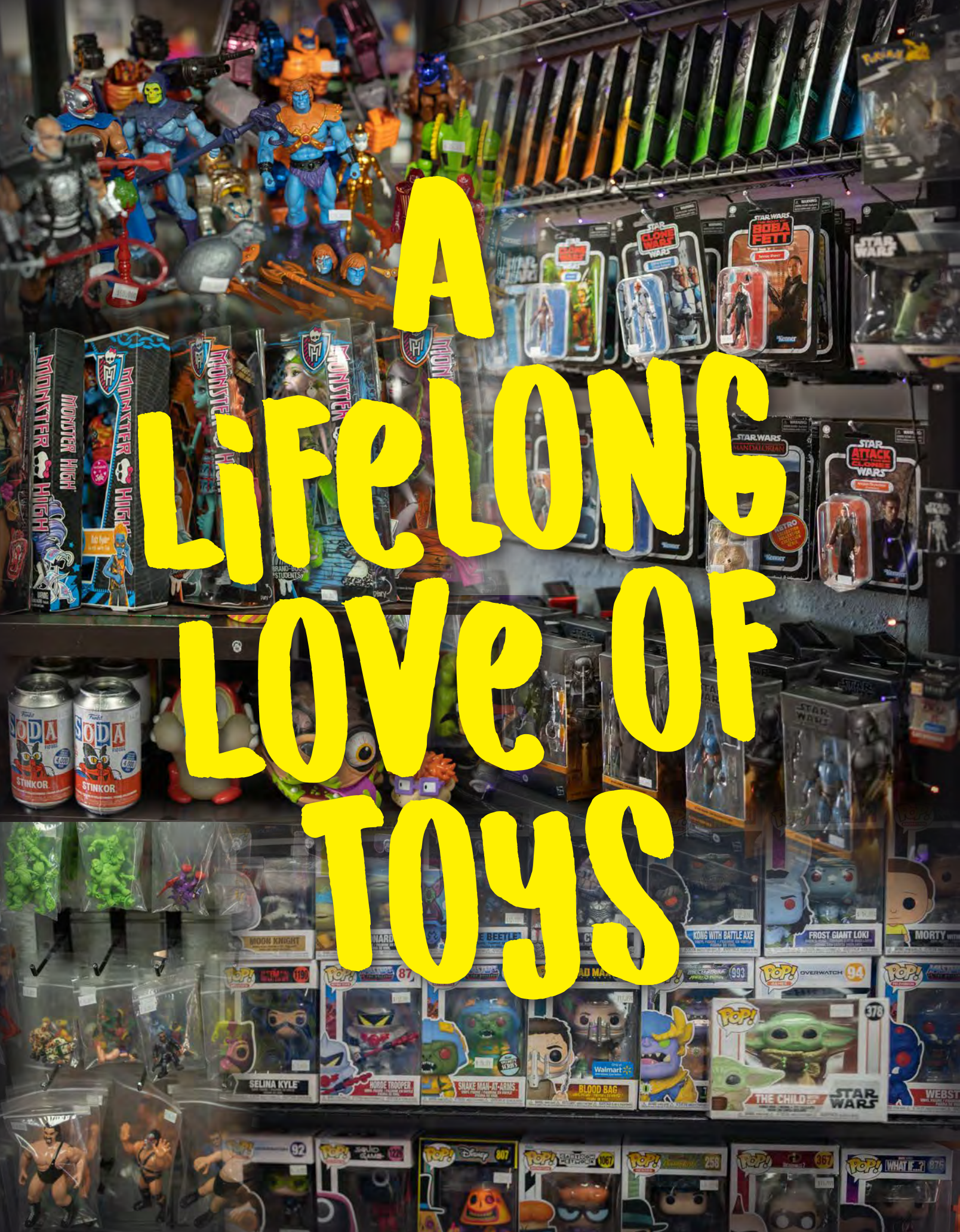


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A LIFELONG LOVE OF TOYS



Brothers Music owners turn hobby into successful business venture

By Denise Elam

For as long as he can remember, Kyle Maggart has been enthralled by the simple joy of collecting things.

As a child, he found himself collecting just about anything he could find — rocks, toys, coins, cards. You name it, he most likely had it. Or wanted to have it.

“Being the youngest, maybe I got spoiled a little more,” he admitted. “I’m not really sure, but for some reason, I ended up being way more into toys and collecting things.”

Kyle and his brother, Cole, co-own Brothers Music in Mission. They’ve always shared a love of music and records, but collectible toys are truly Kyle’s passion.

In fact, when asked what he wanted to be when he grew up, he often told friends and family members he planned to own a comic book store or toy store.

So it was “kind of wild,” as Kyle put it, that a few years after opening Brothers Music, he and Cole turned their dreams into reality and opened Brothers Toys and Collectibles at 5810 Johnson Dr. in Mission.

“The record store was as close to the toy store as I thought I’d probably ever get, and I’m obviously happy with that. I didn’t think (the toy store) would ever really happen,” Kyle admitted.

But happen it did, albeit slowly at first.

The two brothers initially looked into opening a toy store in the Crossroads area in Kansas City in 2020, but when word broke out about the COVID-19 pandemic, they backed out on signing a lease. In fact, they gave up on their dreams altogether.

“We didn’t even put it on the backburner; we just liquidated all the merchandise we had bought at the time to other shops in the Midwest,” Kyle said.

But Kyle’s interest in collectible toys picked up during the pandemic. He found himself buying collectibles from outdoor swap and shops, estate sales and swap meets.

“I’ve always been into buying and selling collectibles — or trash, it depends who you ask. One man’s trash is another man’s treasure, right?” he laughed. “Whether it be an old watch I might find or records or comics.”

He bought a lot of stuff with the intention of selling it, but had no idea what he was buying at the start. He learned a lot during that time about what was popular, what could sell — and what couldn’t. His focus soon shifted solely to toys.

“It became more lucrative than I would have thought,” he said. “I kept buying and selling them on the side out of my house, and then I convinced Cole to let me use the (record) store’s money to open a real store.”

Once Brothers Music moved from its original location in Mission to a spot just across the street at 5812 Johnson Dr. in 2021, the brothers eyed a vacant building next door with intrigue.

“Our business was doing pretty well and our staff was doing well enough that for the first time in about seven and a half years, I was starting to get bored,” Kyle said. “I didn’t have much to do, and I had trained everybody. If you know me, that



Brothers Toys and Collectibles offers a wide variety of new, vintage and used toys for collectors of all ages.

doesn't work. I gotta have something to do."

After some discussion, the brothers talked with the owner of the building next door. He gave them a deal they couldn't refuse. On June 16, 2021, they celebrated the grand opening of Brothers Toys and Collectibles.

The toy store was a steep learning curve for Kyle, but working in grocery and retail all his life helped him to move quickly to secure toys and get them on the shelves.

"You have to preorder most new toys eight months to a year before they come out," he said. "So you have no idea how hot that item is going to be — are people still going to be into it? Should I order one case or 12 cases? I've over-ordered on a lot of new products, I've under-ordered on some. It's so hard to tell the future."

Most of the trends in collectibles are dictated by popular culture — what Disney+, Netflix and other entertainment venues are pouring out into the mainstream media.

"If they come out with a new Star Wars series and it's Boba Fett, I'm going to sell so much Boba Fett stuff for those two months," he explained.

With new toys, he's in a ton of Facebook groups to better understand what audiences are looking for and to gauge the public's general response to them. For vintage toys, the trends don't move quite as fast.

"The collectors that are really into the new stuff, they want it the day it comes out," he said. "Vintage stuff, it's a little easier. If you get the right stuff, it sells itself."

Kyle still gets toy collections through family friends, connections, swap meets, and estate sales, but he also buys from customers who have worthwhile toys to offer.

"If we can't get them locally, then we go where they're at," Kyle said. "We don't just buy any old toy that people bring in. There's a lot of stuff we don't buy. We're mainly looking for things that are related to comic books, pop culture, movies or old cartoons. Things like Marvel, DC, Transformers, G.I. Joe."

The shop also buys vintage Littlest Pet Shop toys, vintage Polly Pocket from the 90s and Strawberry Shortcake dolls from the 70s. Kyle's currently working on ordering the new Monster High dolls. He tries to keep a large variety of toys for any audience in stock at all times.

But there are a few toys the shop doesn't accept at all, including: Beanie Babies, Hot Wheels, diecast cars, NASCAR memorabilia, regular Barbies and other toys that don't fit the theme of the store.

"I love when I get to see parents and their children come in who collect toys together." - Kyle Maggart, Co-Owner, Brothers Toys and Collectibles

Video games and video game consoles, primarily Nintendo, are also bought and sold. Currently, the most popular items tend to be Marvel related, like the DC Multiverse figures. Pokemon, anime-related and Animal Crossing toys are always huge hits as well.

"We'll buy in the box or out of the box," he said. "We don't typically buy toys that are broken, but honestly there are some that are so rare that I'll still buy them."

The brothers hope to stay in Mission for the foreseeable future. In fact, they're looking for a bigger spot that can hold both shops under one roof.

"We'd love to find a big building in Mission," Kyle said.

Since opening the store, he's been amazed at the number of people who are just as enthusiastic about collecting toys

as he is.

"As silly as this might sound ... I love when I get to see parents and their children come in who collect toys together," he said. "I didn't anticipate as much of that happening."

Looking to the future, the possibilities seem endless. There are more toys to discover, more treasures to behold. Kyle's only unearthed a small portion of what's out there.

"There's so much stuff out there I'd never seen until I did this. There's still so much I haven't seen," he said.

Brothers Toys and Collectibles is planning several uniquely-themed gift packages at varying price points for the upcoming holiday shopping season. For more information, visit facebook.com/brotherscollectibles or call 816.289.7840.



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USHERING IN A NEW ERA OF LEARNING



“Parents and community members were able to have a voice in the design process from the beginning stages.” Kristy Fornal, Principal, Rushton Elementary School

Rushton Elementary School rebuild expected to bring exciting new educational opportunities

By Denise Elam

For parents, students, teachers and the Shawnee Mission School District, the rebuilding of Rushton Elementary School is about much more than just a shiny new building.

The project is expected to feature spaces for collaborative conversations and projects, indoor and outdoor learning spots for all students and more safety features than ever before.

“The new Rushton building is expected to be completed by August of 2024,” said Rushton Elementary School Principal Kristy Fornal. “Students will have a state-of-the-art building to be proud to attend.”

Fornal said the collaborative spaces will help staff continue to teach lifelong interpersonal skills that prepare students for college and their future careers.

“Teachers are looking forward to spacious classrooms. Most exciting is, we will now have room to grow with added classrooms and learning spaces,” she said.

Rushton was originally built in 1954. The

existing structure is a 50,730-square-foot one-story building on a 7-acre parcel at 52nd and Horton in Mission. Due in part to the age of the existing structure, in 2020 the district proposed its demolition and replacement.

In 2021, voters approved a bond proposal showing strong support (69.4% in favor) for district-wide facilities improvements and the hiring of additional secondary teachers. Rushton was one of five elementary schools to be rebuilt.

A parent committee formed after the bond approval. Parents, city leaders and the community were invited to provide feedback on the building’s design.

“We wanted to have a parent committee that represented Rushton’s rich diversity,” Fornal said. “Parents and community members were able to have a voice in the design process from the beginning stages.”

Cynthia Smith, a parent of a former Rushton student and a member of the City of Mission’s Planning Commission, said the

parent committee met six times between October 2021 and January of 2022. Representatives from the school district and architects on the project were present to participate in the discussions. Smith said parents provided input on various topics such as the importance of keeping a connection from the school to Waterworks Park.

“There’s a lot of walkers,” she said. “A lot of them walk through Waterworks Park after school and then the kids will play there. It was important to maintain that connection.”

Smith said the design of the outdoor spaces was crucial to the community as well.

“I feel like the architect did a good job of incorporating an outdoor learning area,” she said.

The new space will be a combination one- and two-story building, approximately 75,000 square feet in the same general location. The school will serve kindergarten through sixth grade in individual classrooms with shared collaborative spaces.



Property Information:

The subject property, located on 52nd Street between Lamar Avenue on the west and Woodson Street on the east, is the current location of Rushton Elementary, built in 1954. The existing structure is a 50,730 square foot one-story building on a 306,396 square foot (7 acre) parcel. The school district owns the adjoining 63,237 square foot (1.5 acre) parcel to the southeast directly behind the school, for a total land area of 369,633 square feet (8.5 acres). The property and surrounding properties within 200 feet are zoned single-family residential as “RP-1” Planned Single-Family Residential District and “R-1” Single-Family Residential. Waterworks Park is immediately adjacent to the property on the southeast. The project is outside the 100-year flood zone as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).



In addition, the school will feature a media center, cafeteria with a kitchen, gymnasium, art room, music room, administration suite and special education resource rooms. The project will be LEED certified in accordance with school district policy.

Brad Fulks, whose daughter is in second grade at Rushton, said street congestion during school pick-up hours was also considered during the design process.

Currently, long lines form down the street from the school, sometimes ending up as far as 53rd Street.

“The new school will have enough room to (accommodate) 50 cars without the congestion of the street,” he said. “Also, when they do a fall festival or a back to school dance ... they (won’t be) congesting the neighborhood.”

According to a City of Mission project report, a new curb cut on 52nd Street will allow for bus and service entry on the east side of the building and new circulation for the main parking lot will include a



Renderings of the Rushton rebuild show a state-of-the-art building with intentionally designed outdoor space.

drop-off lane on the west side for children arriving via vehicle. The main parking lot will provide stalls for 70 standardized vehicles, and improved parking lot circulation will allow for 55 cars to stack around the pick-up and drop-off location.

Both Fulks and Smith agree, student safety was the top priority for all. According to Fornal, the new gymnasium doubles as a FEMA storm shelter, helping to keep students safe during severe weather.

“Safety is always our number one priority for our students and staff,” she

said. “Rushton will continue to have safety measures already in place at our existing building such as a secured entrance and perimeter.”

Fornal is excited to see her students’ faces when they walk into the new building.

“It will still feel like the community school of Mission,” she said. “I look forward to the flexibility the learning spaces will have and how that will support our mission to create a positive, safe, productive community that develops resilient learners.”



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A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL PARTNERSHIP



Sully's Pub teams up with WingStand by Jefferson's to deliver fresh, fast food to customers

By Denise Elam

Some partnerships are born out of necessity, and others out of fate. But many would say the partnership between Sully's Pub and WingStand by Jefferson's was one of pure synergy between two thriving Mission businesses.

Sully's, a neighborhood sports bar known for its cold beer served in mason jars, has been a crowd favorite since it opened in July of 2011. General Manager Carrie Braswell said the location has been a neighborhood haunt since the late 1960s.

"It's changed a lot of hands and had a lot of different names on the marquee. It was important that we stepped up and brought the same thing to the community that had always been there before — a place for everyone in the neighborhood to hang out," Braswell said. "Our regulars have been coming in long before it was Sully's."

Braswell said some customers have

"It's worked out nicely to have it be a complimentary thing, where we focus on food and they focus on more of the entertainment and beverage side."

— Brandon Graham, President, WingStand by Jefferson's

been stopping in for a beer for the last 40 years, citing the friendly atmosphere and welcoming bartenders.

"It's a different vibe almost every day of the week," she said. "You never really know what you're going to get ... it gets packed, the music's loud, and the clientele's a little younger on the weekends. It's just a whole different, fun vibe. During the day it's more low key."

Sully's relationship with WingStand by Jefferson's began when WingStand's

President Brandon Graham reached out with an idea he thought could benefit both businesses.

At that time, WingStand was just beginning the process of moving into the former Pride Cleaners location at 5438 Johnson Dr. in Mission. The restaurant, known for its fresh, never frozen chicken wings and 18 signature sauces, originally opened its doors in Jacksonville, Alabama in 1991. It made its way to Mission in September of 2021, offering traditional or



WingStand's menu includes traditional bone-in wings with a delectable selection of sauces, funnel cake fries and sweet lemonades, among many other options.

boneless wings, jumbo tenders, chicken sandwiches and loaded mac and cheese, among many other delectable options.

Graham suggested Sully's customers scan QR codes to order food directly from WingStand's menu. That way, they could catch a game and enjoy a cocktail inside Sully's while also chowing down on wings from WingStand.

Sully's was already moving away from serving food, so it felt like the perfect match.

"It was this really great idea of, you don't have to carry a liquor license, we don't have to have food anymore, and it's mutually beneficial," Braswell said. "It's not like our customers have to even get up and go over there; they scan QR codes on our tables, and they (WingStand) deliver the food. It's pretty great."

Graham said WingStand stresses to customers that their next-door neighbor is a great place to watch a sports game, relax and catch a cool drink with friends. Braswell said Sully's and WingStand both have nice patios for lounging.

"It's worked out nicely to have it be a complimentary thing, where we focus on food and they focus on more of the entertainment and beverage side," Graham said. "Customers can be sitting

there at a table, click the QR code and place an order with us and our staff walks it over within 10-15 minutes."

Both Sully's and WingStand plan to continue expanding their reach in Mission by giving back to the community. Braswell said Sully's partners with the Northeast Johnson County Chamber of Commerce each month to host meetings and fun events like BINGO. The pub also sponsors multiple ultimate frisbee leagues in the Kansas City area.

"Any time we can get involved in charities, we're definitely doing that as often as we can," she noted. "It could be donations to schools, or sponsoring sports teams."

Graham said WingStand has always worked hard at embedding themselves into the community.

"We want to be on the list when people are looking for fundraising opportunities, sponsorships, and partnering with anything we can be of help with on the food side," he said. "Continuing to be a part of that community in any way we can."

Sully's Pub and WingStand by Jefferson's are open daily. For more information about hours or menu options, visit sullyskc.com or wingstand.com.



Sully's recently completed a patio renovation, allowing more space for lounging during nice weather.



Sully's is known for having more than 12 TVs to watch sports with year-round.

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COUNCIL WORK SESSIONS

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THANK YOU MISSION!



In September, Mission voters renewed a dedicated Parks and Recreation sales tax for another 10 years. Garnering 86% voter approval, the City is grateful for the support and proud to continue our investment in important recreation amenities. Renewal of the sales tax will allow the City to make important upgrades to our outdoor parks. For status updates on current and future park projects, please visit the City's website at www.missionks.org.



The Mid-America Regional Council's Resilient Success Stories award program recently showcased nine honorees for 2022. Mission's facility conservation improvement program, which saved the City over \$400,000 annually and converted all streetlights to LED, was among the award recipients.

Recycle Right Efforts Help Residents Improve Recycling Habits



Earlier this year, Mission residents got a little help confirming that they were recycling right. The Johnson County Department of Health and Environment partnered with GFL and the City of Mission to perform quick visual inspections of recycling bins, looking only at the material visible from the top of the bin.

The campaign was for educational purposes only. If volunteers spotted something awry, they left a checklist on top of recycle bins to help inform residents how to recycle better. Items that would prompt a checklist included contaminating items such as Styrofoam or plastic bags, or glass among others.

One of the top mistakes is bagging recyclables. When residents bag their recyclables before putting them in their rollcart, they often end up in a landfill. Items need to be able to move freely on the conveyor belts at the sorting facility. Plastic bags can get caught in machinery at the recycling facility and lower the value of other recyclables.

The educational campaign led to a significant improvement in the amount of bagged recyclables in Mission. On the first pass, volunteers found 330 homes that bagged recyclables. On a second check after the educational campaign, that number had been reduced to 76 – an improvement of about 77%.

The Mission Sustainability Commission and Mission City staff helped to facilitate the effort. To learn more about how to Recycle Right, visit <http://jocogov.org/department/environment/recycling/recycling-101>.



WAY TO GO MISSION!

First Pass:
330 homes with bagged recyclables

After Audit:
76 homes with bagged recyclables

Let your recyclables all hang loose



Mayor Flora recently presented Mission resident Terri Baugh with the Citizen Appreciation Award. Terri is a member of the Sustainability Commission and has spearheaded recycling efforts, education campaigns and most recently, the Go Green! 2022 Environmental Fair. She is a Mission champion, promoting special events, volunteering, and is a regular and loyal member of the Powell Community Center. Thank you, Terri, for all you do to make Mission better!

2022 Mission Police Department / Consolidated Fire District #2 Cereal Challenge



Congratulations to the members of Consolidated Fire District #2 and the Mission Police Department for collecting 967 boxes of cereal during a friendly competition benefitting Mission's Family Adoption Program. Northeast Johnson County families are the real winners, but we are proud to say that the Police Department, their friends and supporters contributed a total of 767 boxes. That means the Fire Department will be cooking for the police officers soon! Thanks to all who participated to ensure the success of this year's challenge.



Thanks to everyone who came to celebrate the completion of the Johnson Drive road project! The ribbon cutting and group walk were a great kick-off to enjoying a more walkable, pedestrian-friendly Downtown Mission.



Winter Snow Season Is Officially Here

The work of Mission's Public Works crews changes with each season. As winter approaches, the department turns its attention from street patching and repair to snow-plowing operations. Mission operates two 12-hour shifts with four to five crew members each to ensure Mission's roadways are safe for travel.

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

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



Sidewalk Snow Removal – What You Need to Know

Walkability and access for pedestrians year-round is an important value in Mission. There are many in our community who rely on being able to travel the City's sidewalks, and it's important that we all do our part to help keep everyone safe in snow conditions. Each winter season, the City receives a number of complaints from residents and visitors to local businesses regarding uncleared sidewalks which detract from the walkability of our community.

In 2020, the City's codes were revised requiring property owners to clear sidewalks within 48 hours of a snow event. The changes were designed to promote snow removal to ensure the safety and convenience of those needing or wanting to get to work, school or errands during the winter months.

The ordinance includes provisions for a courtesy notice to be sent to owners, occupants or agents in charge of the sidewalks if they are not cleared, and there will be no fee or assessment with the courtesy notice. One courtesy notice will be allowed each winter season. The ordinance gives the City the ability to remove (abate) the snow if a property owner doesn't comply within the notice period and for the costs to be assessed back. For questions on Mission's snow removal ordinance, contact the Neighborhood Services Department at 913.676.8390.



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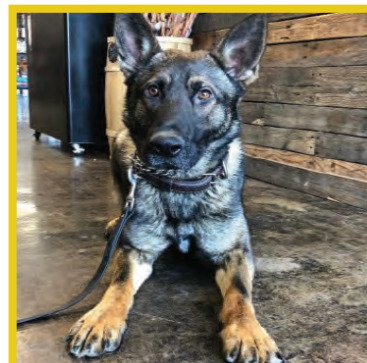
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Mission's Council joined with the Sunflower Development Group at the recent groundbreaking for the Residence on Rock Creek apartments. Check the City's website www.missionks.org for project status updates.



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**The City of Mission
joined with the larger
Mission community to
mourn the passing of
Village Inn owner Bob
McDaniel in November.**

Bob's generous spirit and love for his customers will be missed. Our sincere condolences to Melanie and the entire Village Inn family.

THE LEAVEN

THELEAVEN.ORG | VOL. 44, NO. 8 | SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

CSI: MIEGE

New program helps students find their path toward future careers

By Jill Ragar Esfeld
Special to The Leaven

ROELAND PARK — There is a murder to be solved at Bishop Miege High School here. And it's up to Mary Beth Summers' biomedical science students to determine the culprit.

"We have someone who's died," explained Summers. "And then we have some unknown samples from the crime scene."

On the day of The Leaven's visit, students were analyzing which samples are blood and what blood types are present.

That should help them narrow down their list of suspects.

"And then," said Summers, "they're developing an experiment to try to test blood splatter."

That will determine the cause of death.

Not to worry, this murder is simulated; but the lessons learned are not.

As these young sleuths engage in the science behind crime-scene investigation, they will discover far more than the culprit in this whodunit.

They'll find out if they have an interest in forensic science, phlebotomy or any number of professions in the biomedical science field.

On the way to that important discovery, they're having some fun.

This class is a hands-on teenage dream of blood sampling, fingerprinting and learning how maggots and flies can help determine time of death.

Welcome to the newest path in the Bishop Miege Project Lead the Way (PLTW) program — biomedical science joins the already successful paths of computer science



LEAVEN PHOTO BY JILL RAGAR ESFELD

Participating in the Forensic Techniques unit of Bishop Miege's biomedical science pathway, Kaiya Key (left) and Jack Elder are preparing their simulated blood samples to determine blood type.

Miege paves paths to students' future on foundation of faith

and engineering.

Forensic science techniques is the first unit on this path.

The second is clinical care in which students will learn more about the professions of physicians and nurses.

The third unit is called "outbreak."

"It has to do with a bacterial outbreak that occurs in the hospital," explained Summers. "Students have to figure out how patients are being moved through the hospital and where a patient might have been exposed.

"So, they're going to see a little more of the research side."

Next year, a course in human body systems will be added.

Bishop Miege is seeing a surge in student interest and involvement with these experiential lessons in science.

"We love Project Lead the Way because it's so hands-on," said principal Maureen Engen.

This new path was added based on student interest.

"We did a survey," said Engen. "Thirty percent of the students that completed it were interested in health science and medicine."

PLTW courses provide a rigorous, project-based curriculum aimed at building problem-solving, teamwork, communication and leadership skills.

"It's important that we're preparing students to enter these fields," said Matt Peterie, director of 21st Century Learning. "And we want them to have that foundation in Catholic education with stewardship at the center of it.

"At the core, that's what gave us the motivation to build out these pathways."

Any time a teacher wants to teach a PLTW class, they have to go through an intense two-week summer training program.

"When I did my training this summer," said Summers, "we talked about the ethics piece.



LEAVEN PHOTO BY JILL RAGAR ESFELD

Biomedical science instructor Mary Beth Summers points out to Kaiya Delgado (left) and Sammy Jo Kirk how some of the simulated blood samples look cloudy, indicating what specific blood type is represented.

"I was glad I could do a little extra research [into] what the Catholic view is, to speak to that as well," she added.

With Summers' help, Bishop Miege now has a HOSA (Healthcare Occupations Students of America) club.

"It's a nationally recognized club," she said. "I try to get professionals from the fields of health care brought in to Miege so my students can hear from different health care professionals.

"A lot of the speakers are former graduates who are still practicing their faith," she continued.

As students discern their interests, they also have the opportunity to join one of seven academic communities at Bishop Miege. The communities span every career interest, including one in health sciences and medicine.

"The big picture with [these communities]," said Peterie, is they "help students connect their interests, strengths and passions to what they may be doing after

their time here at Bishop Miege.

"It's not locking them into a career; it's helping them find their path."

Students interested in biomedical science now have a clear path at Bishop Miege that will help them discern the best way to utilize their God-given gifts in that field.

"We want to provide a high-profile space for teachers to deliver project-based learning experiences," said Engen, "because it helps students develop and practice essential skills.

"It also lends itself to helping them figure out what they are going to be good at post-high school."

The future is definitely at the heart of the biomedical science pathway.

"I'm excited we can create that foundation here," said Peterie. "We can light that fire so students can go out in the world and serve Christ and build up the kingdom by the work they're going to do."

Each meal a memory

"It's like she's here almost, still cooking
with me. Still peering over my shoulder."

— Kelsey Gibbs

Suzie Gibbs was known for
her elaborate holiday spreads,
including winter tablecloths,
wreaths, garland and Santa
Claus figurines, pictured here.

Kelsey Gibbs shares her grandma's favorite holiday traditions in the kitchen

by Denise Elam

Odds are, tucked away into the corner of your grandmother's kitchen is a worn wooden box filled with old family recipes. Each recipe holds a specific and treasured memory, each meal a story of times past.

If you're Kelsey Gibbs, the wooden box is filled with new and old recipes from friends, family memories and even clippings from newspaper and magazine articles. Her grandma, Suzie Gibbs, loved cooking. Her two overflowing boxes of recipes show it.

"When she was younger, about my age, she wanted to be a lawyer," Kelsey recalled. "She went to school a little bit for law before she married her first husband. And I think she really fell in love with cooking when she got to use her grandmother's recipes with her kids. She has memories with each recipe, which was always super cool to hear about."

One such recipe was a marmalade.

"I remember her specifically saying you had to watch the pot and stir it until it bubbled 10 times, and then it was ready," she said. "She learned how to jar it herself and would gift it to people."

Kelsey has her own fond memories in the kitchen, learning how to cook under Suzie's watchful eye, and hearing the stories behind the recipes from Suzie as she prepared them.

"She has this brown rice that she makes in the oven — it's a cup of rice, a cup of water and a can of french onion soup — and she talked about when her boys were growing up, my uncles, that was their favorite thing to eat," Kelsey said. "And now they have the recipes, and they eat it at home."

Kelsey will never forget when Suzie taught her how to make okra. Initially, she hated the vegetable because she thought it was slimy and gross.

"But then as I grew up, and she made me eat it — because you have to eat your vegetables in this house — I started to like it," Kelsey said. "She would stew it. So, even though it was still really soft, the outer side still had a little bit of a crunch to it ... I remember having her repeatedly teach me how to make it, so I could make it without looking at a recipe. I love her okra recipe."

Kelsey said she blends spiced diced tomatoes and adds bacon and diced onion with a pound of okra.

"Bring it to a boil and let it simmer for about an hour, it's so good."

The holidays were an especially exciting time in the Gibbs household. In the winter, Kelsey said Suzie loved baking sugar cookies, peanut butter cookies with Hershey's Kisses in the center, chocolate snowflakes and peanut clusters. She'd hand them out to neighbors on festive plates tied together with a bow. Kelsey hopes to continue the tradition this Christmas.

Another popular winter dish was KU Vegetable Soup, which Suzie found in a magazine that supports the University of Kansas. Since she certainly wasn't a KU fan, Suzie liked to generalize it as her "university" soup.

"It wasn't KU soup for long in our house. Basically, whoever

she was cooking it for, it was their university soup," Kelsey said. "That was my favorite thing to eat. I would ask for that for my birthday. It was just so delicious."

Some family gatherings were competitive. Suzie's famous homemade taco recipe often led to full-on taco-eating contests between her children and grandchildren — and their friends.

"I think the most was 23 (tacos eaten)," Kelsey said. "Whoever was present at Taco Night was in the competition ... when my uncles were younger, they loved it. And then my cousins as well. It was a family tradition, honestly."

In the summers, Suzie and her husband, Jack would often make homemade ice cream together.

"We would get peaches from an orchard we know in Lexington, Missouri and we would puree them, add them to the mixture and then we would have peach ice cream," Kelsey recalled. "And now I always make peach ice cream for my best friend, because she absolutely loves it."

Since Suzie's passing, Kelsey has enjoyed learning more about her grandma's life and cooking through her worn wooden recipe boxes.

"What's funny is, you can tell which recipes are Grandma's because you can barely read them," she laughed. "Almost no one in our family could read her handwriting."

Although she considers herself somewhat of a novice, preparing meals for her grandpa using Suzie's own tried-and-true recipes brings back a lot of happy memories.

"Cooking with the stuff that she cooked with ... it's like she's here almost, still cooking with me," Kelsey said. "Still peering over my shoulder."



Suzie Gibbs' Cinnamon Coffee Cake

1 box butter cake mix
½ cup sugar
¾ cup oil
1 cup sour cream
(*or use your choice of pudding mix)
1 teaspoon vanilla
4 eggs

Glaze:

1 cup powdered sugar
3 tablespoons milk
2 tablespoons melted butter

Instructions:

Combine butter cake mix, eggs, sugar, oil, sour cream* and vanilla. Pour half the mixture into a greased and floured bundt pan. Sprinkle 2 tablespoons of sugar and 2 teaspoons of cinnamon into the pan and then pour the remainder of the mixture. Bake at 350 degrees for one hour. Let it cool, then pour glaze over the top and sprinkle with powdered sugar.



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mix
1 8-ounce package cream cheese,
softened
1/4 cup milk
1/4 cup sifted powdered sugar
1 package 1-layer-size white cake
mix
2 tablespoons water

1. Spray a 15x10x1-inch baking pan
with nonstick coating; set aside.
2. Prepare brownie mix according to
package directions. Spread evenly in
the prepared pan.
3. In a medium mixing bowl, beat
cream cheese with an electric mixer for
30 seconds. Gradually beat in the milk
and powdered sugar till well combined.
Add the cake mix and water. Beat well.
Spoon the mixture atop brownie base.

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Suzie's wooden recipe box is filled to the brim with old family recipes. Kelsey, pictured here, sifts through them often to find meals to cook for her grandpa.

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Gathering Memories of Life in Mission

Look back at historic sites with the Otocast app

by Kate Deacon

This time of year begs for a cozy corner and some good conversation. If you're gathering with friends, family or neighbors this year, consider taking time to finally capture some of those priceless memories or oft-repeated tales that have been handed down through the years.

History is most alive when told by those who lived it, so we're inviting you to sit down with your neighbors, friends and family this year and join us as we capture stories about life in Mission, of the changes you've seen, of the memories you've made.

Memories can be recorded between people in the same room or across the ocean, and there are countless prompts to help get the conversation rolling on websites such as storycorps.org. With a recording device like a cell phone or computer ready to go, you can begin with some questions for a guided conversation and see where the memories take you!

Want to hear some of the stories we've captured from longtime Mission residents? Check out our history tour on Otocast, an app that allows us to share historic pictures and audio recordings featuring beloved locations in Mission.

We know there is more to Mission's history than what is captured on Otocast. We want to add more voices that can tell more of our shared history. Do you have something to add? Please email kdeacon@missionks.org and let us know.



Inspired by the National Day of Listening, an annual event in November that encourages people to share and record stories and memories with each other, Assistant City Administrator Emily Randel recently enjoyed a walking and talking tour with multiple generations of her family. As they visited the final resting place of their great-great-great-grandmother, they recorded priceless family memories onsite.



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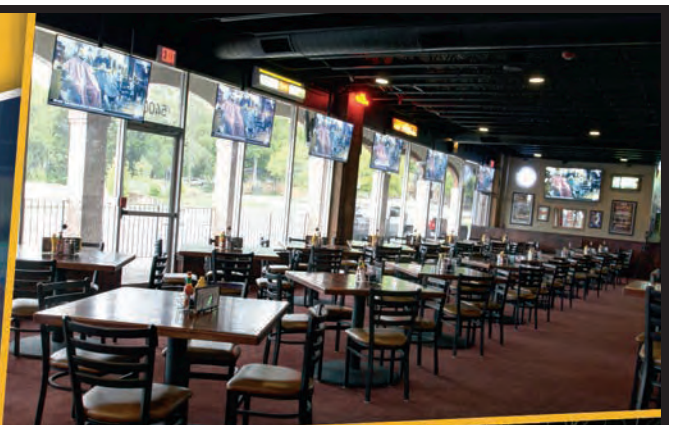
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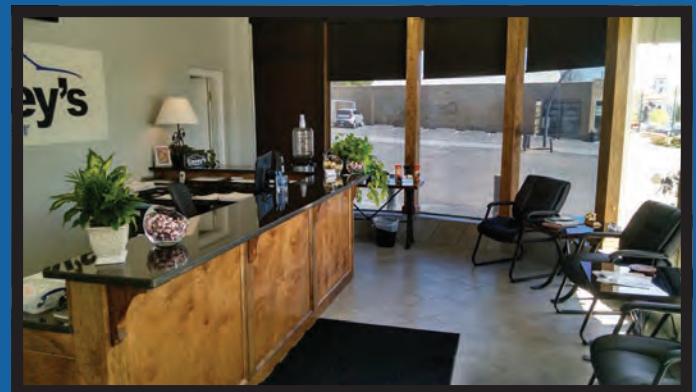


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Hours: Mon. - Thur. 7am - 5:30pm

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