

Dancin' News



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“Without a struggle, there can be no progress.”

-Frederick Douglass

DON'T MISS OUR IMPORTANT DATES & THE MUSICAL MOVIE FLYER ON THE LAST PAGES OF OUR DANCIN' NEWS!!!

KMC's New Studio – From Dream To Reality

Words cannot express the amount of gratitude, love and awe I have for my family and KMC family. This studio has always been my dream for my hometown of Rockport. I dreamt of a place for people who want to move, not just dance, but all forms of movement; a place to enjoy what makes them happy and healthy.

The First Step – Where To Build

My grandparents, George and Charlene Miller, moved to this property in the 1960's. I lived here, in this exact spot where their house was, until I was 7, playing in these very trees and this general area. The property was gifted to me in 2009 from my grandmother, mom and uncle; so that one day I could fulfill my dream of a studio for “movement”. Without this first gift of love from my family, the next steps would not have been possible.

The Next Step – A 5-Year Process

During a quick conversation over 6 years ago with a parent of 2 of my students, my dream of a studio came up. I felt it was an almost impossible dream that would require far too much fundraising for me to do successfully by myself. Janie Johnnie promised she would assist and help me raise the funds. She was the catalyst that lit the fire under me to reach for my dream. With Janie's assistance and the help of many others, fundraising began which included haunted houses, a karaoke contests, a Bunco party, raffles, auctions, bake sales, car washes and garage sales. Slowly, we built enough funds for a down payment so I could start talking to banks. I went to 3 banks and the general response was – I don't make enough profit to take the gamble. That was when 1st Community sent me to apply at their Small Business Administration loan office. After another year of paperwork, I finally got approved for the loan. At the same time I started talking to banks, I started working on finding a contractor. After

“Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.”

-John F Kennedy

trying to start dialogue with some local businesses and a wonderful concept drawn up by Joel Hearn to explain my vision, I was continuously shut down or never called back. Clint Madill was the first person that took me seriously and started the process of designing the building in close regards to the City of Rockport’s many laws and permits. Hank Madill did all the legwork to provide me with the budget so I could keep talking to banks. I went big!!! Like 5600 square feet of **BIG!!!** So when I was able to present my “**BIG**” studio, the cost would be too much for the loan for which I had been approved. This meant new plans had to be drawn up to reflect the downsized square footage that would fall within my loan approval. Madill was already on to other projects and did not have time to rebid the building, so that’s when I called Western Steel. The process with them was smooth and easy, due to the plans provided by Madill Designs. They were also an approved construction company with the Small Business Administration, which would have been another hoop for me to have to jump through, if the builder I ended up picking was not.

So during this year of applying and designing, we just kept fundraising. There were many obstacles; part of which was first just understanding what everything meant. I could see that some people didn’t really think this would ever become a reality, and would smile and nod to say they “understood”, but like everything, it’s a process and mine was a slow one that took time to understand and do right. Finally, I am approved and plans are submitted and we’re ready to go.

Another Year – Jumping Through Hoops

The next 8 months were spent getting approved for permits with the city. There were many challenges, both emotionally and financially, some involved the plans being “kicked back” for revisions the city deemed necessary. The first kickback needed some easy building fixes and a point system landscaping plan. Western Steel had to find a local plant company to create a plan, which meant more money. It took a few weeks before the plans could be resubmitted. Which triggered another “kick back” for an engineered drainage plan, which meant yet more money. So Western Steel used their engineer for the design plans with drainage, which took a month before we could resubmit the plans in May. The revised plans with drainage then had to be approved by 3 different offices in Rockport, and of course, by then it was

their vacation times. So that took almost 4 months for these 3 entities to review and pass the plans. On the lucky side, when I had the land surveyed, I also did the tree survey. Due to the location or state of the trees that needed to be removed, I didn't need to go to the Tree Committee. We were approved and Jeff Steckler came in to remove the trees.

I learned so much in this process. Mostly, I learned that the people who live here needed this place. Not just the kids, but people of all ages. I've had people say to me, "This is so good for you", but I didn't do this for me, I did it for "us"! All of "us" who **need** a place like this to find happiness in our souls on a daily basis. Thank you everyone for helping this to become a reality for us!

Many "KMC Angels" made this dream a reality, as each helped at exactly the time they were most needed, but more about that in February.

See our Timeline on the last page of this month's Dancin' News.

Important Dates

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January 13 - 15 Adrenaline Dance Convention

February 10 - Musical Movie Night (Singing in the Rain)

March 3 - Showbiz Convention

March 13 - 17 - Spring Break

March 31 - April 2 - Encore Performance

April 1 - Production fee for HSS due with tuition

April 28 - 30 Showstopper

May - Opening Number Rehearsal every Saturday in May

May 20- Stage Make-up Class

May 21 - Picture Day

May 29 - No Class - Memorial Day

June 8 -10 - Hot Shoe Show Rehearsals

June 10 - Hot Shoe Show 2017

Movie Night is Back!

KMC Presents Musical Movie Night



\$10 per person. Please bring blankets, pillows, beanbags, etc. Snacks will be available for purchase. Also, for those students who haven't had a chance to create their KMC stepping-stone, you will have an opportunity to do so at 6:30 p.m.

Stepping-stones range from \$20-30. All proceeds from this event will be used to assist with new studio projects.

KMC New Studio Timeline

2009			Property gifted by grandmother, mom & uncle
2011	- 2016		Fundraising
2016	- Ongoing		Fundraising for plants/landscaping provided by Native Dave
2016	February	26	Loan granted for KMC new studio construction
2016	All summer		Jasmine Martinez helper
2016	July	5	We have permits!
2016	July	20	Jeff Steckler cuts trees
2016	July	27	Hunter family fills holes left by trees
2016	August	1	Wood form goes up for concrete slab
2016	August	2	Dismantling old studio across from Charlie Marshall's Funeral Home
2016	August	7	Plumbing laid before concrete poured
2016	August	12	Floors installed at temporary location, back side of old Castaways building
2016	August	23	More dirt over the plumbing and rebar laid
2016	August	25	Concrete poured & temporary studio décor arranged to include waiting area, dance area and office
2016	September	5	Steel for building delivered on site
2016	September	9	Frame goes up
2016	September	23	Building exterior up
2016	October	4	Inside walls frames go up
2016	October	11	Parking lot spaces painted
2016	October	18	Sheetrock goes up
2016	October	31	Painting inside
2016	November	2	Finishing touches, including ceilings
2016	December	5	Dance subfloor goes in
2016	December	22	Move day, finishing up the subfloors, cutting & laying the vinyl
2016	December	24	Mirrors go up
2016	December	26	Floors are in! (Brandi & Leo)
2016	December	27	Finishing vinyl floors (Brandi, Carolyn & Leo)
2016	December	31	Green room complete & barras installed (Ti, Mandi & Brandi)
2017	January	22	Finishing touches, the pictures go up (Margarette & Wendi)