

WEST PLAZA

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



Picnic Report

It was a beautiful, sunny spring afternoon in the park. The WPNA picnic was in full swing. Children were running, laughing with delight. Parents and neighbors were sharing the latest neighborhood stories, joking and laughing too. But the noise and laughter came to a sudden stop as all eyes turned towards the small white orbs hurling towards the east. Children were riveted, watching with hands held close to their faces. Older adults leaned and stretched, yearning to see what devastation would occur in the next second. The silence was deafening, no one was breathing.

SMACK, CRACK AHHHHHHHHHH!!!! And with the exception of one significantly disgusted young woman, squeals of laughter erupt from the crowd, cheers were shouted and a round of applause was given to the victors. It was the conclusion to the egg toss competition.

This was the third and decisive leg in the triple feature competition where pairs of neighbors competed for \$150 worth of Boulevard Beer. And, one of several fantastic games and drawings that made this year's picnic one of the best ever. Even the always dangerous and never a dull moment piñata left the crowd laughing.

The KC Area Transportation Authority displayed one of their new buses at the picnic. According to the comments from many of our neighbors they were impressed with the convenient design of the low-floor bus and the access to transportation services provided by the "Metro" in our neighborhood.

And we did have some incredible door prizes, and a lot of them. If you weren't able to make the picnic this year, put it down for next year; we plan to have another great set of door prizes then.

Thanks to the following businesses for their contributions. A big thanks to those who contributed to the food:

- Marsh's SunFresh** Hot Dogs, Buns, Chips
- Westport Pizza** Ice
- CopyMate** Soda

And another big thanks to all those who contributed door prizes:

- Napoleons Bakery** Lunch for 2, with Soda
- Eden Alley Kitchen & Coffee Room** Free meal Tickets
- Murphy's Texaco** Gas Certificates
- Prudential Henry & Burrows REALTORS** Blockbuster Gift Certificate
AMC Gift Certificate
- Westlake ACE Hardware** Live Outdoor Plants
- Meiners Plaza Market** Gift Certificate
- JJ's** Gift Certificate
- The Capital Grille** Gift Certificates

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- UNO Pizzeria Chicago Bar & Grill**
Lunch Certificates
- McDonald's (Plaza location)**
25 Certificates and 25 Discount Cards
- Boulevard Brewing Co.**
Free Certificate
- Westport Plaza Amoco**
Free Gas Receipt
- Plaza Pantry Convenience Store**
Gift Certificate
- Shelton Travel**
Gift Certificate
- First Watch**
"Free Kids Meal" Certificates
- LATTeLAND**
LATTeLAND Espresso Express Card
- Valley View Bank**
Royals baseball tickets
- Bob Jones Shoes**
Discount certificate

In addition to the businesses that provided attendance prizes and other contributions for the picnic we would like to give a BIG THANKS to the following picnic committee volunteers: Penny Cox, Mary Stone, Ruth White, and all others that helped with the event. This was a great picnic.

Need a Tool for That Project?

The Westside Housing Organization (WHO) has a useful tool lending library. There are several steps to using it. First you have to have paid your West Plaza Neighborhood Association membership fee for 2003. Then, if you let Shirley Williston know you would like the WHO tool catalogue, she will send you a copy. She will also send you a WPNA membership card.

Call ahead to WHO that you would like to borrow a tool. The number is on the cover of the catalogue. Once you have contacted WHO and completed the tool application, take your WPNA membership card, and a check or cash. WHO is not set up for credit cards.

Then do that summer project!

Trash

This years spring clean up was another huge success. Both dumpsters were filled to above capacity well before noon. That means literally

tons of trash and yard waste were collected from the neighborhood and disposed of in a single morning. Congratulations to all who participated, and thank you to the tireless effort of all the volunteers who helped out.

The response was so strong in fact; some latecomers were turned away once the dumpsters were topped off. Sorry, but it is a first come, first serve set up. If the level of interest stays strong, we will investigate the possibility of adding another. Join the WPNA and help us get another self-help grant to fund this West Plaza program. In the meanwhile, the City still has a bulky item pickup program. Call the City @ 513-3490 to confirm an appropriate date.

WPNA Banners – Volunteers Needed

The project to install West Plaza Neighborhood banners on utility poles is moving forward. Our members selected the banner design at a meeting earlier this year, but we still need to complete the following task:

- Select utility pole locations for the banners (preliminary work completed)
- Contact KCMO to receive proper authorizations
- Arrange for banner printing (vendors have submitted price quotes)
- Select contractor to hang the banners

If you would like to volunteer for a committee to assist in the completion of the banner project, please contact Bob Crutsinger at 816-797-3126 or e-mail WPNA_KCMO@hotmail.com.

Remember, we are taking the summer off for the General Membership meetings. But your Board is active and ready to hear your ideas, so don't take the summer off from suggesting things that you'd like to see the West Plaza Neighborhood Association do!

If you have an idea, contact one of the board members (phone numbers and e-mail listed on page 4).

See you at the next General Membership meeting in September!!

Crime Report

Good News, just to let everyone know, overall crime is down in the West Plaza Neighborhood. According to the latest crime report from the Police Department, we are down by 12% for the first four months of the year.

In other crime related news, since the 2nd week in April there have been fifteen reported crimes in the West Plaza boundaries. Of these fifteen crimes, **eight were residential burglaries.**

There are many things that a homeowner or renter can do to minimize this type of crime. The following are suggestions that will help us to keep from becoming a burglary victim:

- All doors should be locked at night and every time we leave the house or apartment - even if it's just for a few minutes.
- If there are glass panels in or near exterior doors they should be reinforced in some way so that they cannot be shattered.
- All exterior doors should have good deadbolt locks installed.
- Spare keys are kept with a trusted neighbor, not under the doormat or in planter, on a ledge or in the mailbox.
- Every window in the house or apartment should have working key lock or should be securely pinned.
- Windows should be locked, even when they are opened a few inches for ventilation.
- Shrubs and bushes should be trimmed so there is not place for someone to hide.
- Outside lighting is a must and some inside lights should be left on even if you are not home.
- When you go on vacation have a neighbor take care of things around your house.
- Consider installation of a security alarm with an outside siren, again a trusted neighbor should have the alarm code when you are away.

By doing the above recommendations you can greatly reduce your chances of becoming a victim of burglary and improve everyone's outlook of our great West Plaza Neighborhood.

WPNA Business Members

SHELTON TRAVEL

4800 Bellevue
816-753-4888

PLAZA PANTRY GROCERY

4802 Bellevue
816-753-8225

LE NAIL'S SALON

4804 Bellevue
816- 931-0303

DR. STEVEN RICHTER

Oral Surgeon
4706 Holly

LADNER ASSOCIATES CPA

4808 Bellevue
816- 561-7580

BERGAMOT & IVY, INC.

1713 Westport Road
816-561-5599

FINAL DRAFT SECRETARIAL SERVICE

4401 Genessee
816-931-2276

HAIR STYLE

4500 Bell
816-531-4545

ACT II

1417 W 47th
816-531-7572

PLAZA CHIROPRACTIC

1507 West 47th Street
816-931-4601

45th STREET COFFEE SHOP

1813 West 45th Street
816-753-0078

KATE'S CANINE RESORT

207 W 31ST
816-753-4188

VALLEY VIEW BANK

4550 Bellevue
913-381-3311

WESTPORT-PLAZA DENTAL ASSOCIATES

Park Plaza Building
801 W 47th Suite 408
816-561-6150

GARY JENKINS ATTORNEY AT LAW

204 W Linwood
816-931-3535

PRECISION OPTICS OF WESTPORT

4181 Broadway
816-756-3577

DAVID ALLEN STATE FARM INSURANCE

1414 W 47th Street
816-753-4334

LAW OFFICE OF KENT L. KERSTEN

4610 Holly
531-0007

HALLELUJAH BOUTIQUE

Alterations & Repairs
4706 Holly
816-931-7396

Judy Klemm REMAX PREMIER

3515 W. 75 St.
913-529-1408

RICH YOUNG ASSOCIATES INC

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931-4724

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CATHY'S CLIPS & CURL SALON

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SUNSHINE FLOWERS

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913-384-5034

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4505 State Line
816-931-3399

WESTPORT LAUNDROMAT

1409 Westport Road
816-531-8889

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What Are They Building on Belleview?

For inquiring minds that are curious about the construction project at 4528 Belleview Avenue – the WPNA can help answer the question. The “redevelopment” project is converting an existing

office building into luxury condominiums. There will be nine owner occupied residential units with enclosed parking provided under the structure. A significant aspect of this redevelopment is that the project is being completed without any taxpayer subsidies – congratulation on the project and a welcome to our future new neighbors!

Use the Mutt Mitt

A WPNA volunteer is keeping the Mutt Mitt stocked in Westwood Park. Please use a mitt to clean up after your dog and keep the park nice for everyone.

It's the Fourth Again

Please, please, if you want to shoot off fireworks, do so safely and in a place where it's legal. Kansas City, MO ordinances forbid anyone from selling at retail, carrying on the person, using or exploding any fireworks in the city.


The streets of West Plaza and Westwood Park don't qualify as either safe or legal. We have a lot of older homes in our neighborhood. Shooting off fireworks near wood frame buildings is an unnecessary risk to the structures and people who live in this area.

Even better, try one of the many professional shows that are located throughout the metropolitan area. There's no way you can afford a display like that yourself.

WPNA is paying for two off-duty police on July 4th. They will be available from about 8 p.m till after midnight. If you observe a problem and would like to have these officers investigate, you can contact them directly on their cell phone: 816-853-3806.

Have a happy, safe, and legal fourth!!

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Ind Avon SIs Representative
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