

# WEST PLAZA

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



**The next General Membership Meeting  
will be  
Tuesday, 20 January 2004  
7:00 p.m.  
Swinney Elementary School Cafeteria  
1106 West 47<sup>th</sup>**

**Meeting topics:  
Election of WPNA Officers for 2004  
Presentation by KCMO Crime  
Prevention Program Staff**

### **Kansas City Crime Prevention Program**

At our November WPNA General Membership Meeting we had an informative presentation by the by the Kansas City Neighborhood Preservation Division and the Department of Codes Administration.

For the January meeting we have invited staff from the Crime Prevention Program (CPP) of Kansas City. The CPP is part of the Center for Community Solutions in the Neighborhood & Community Services Department. The purpose of the CPP is to provide education and other materials on how citizens can make their lives safer and reduce their fear of being the victim of a crime. The CPP staff will make a presentation on crime prevention/safety by using real-world scenarios and then the West Plaza neighbors will help come up with the best solution to the problem presented.

Be sure to attend this meeting, because after the educational component is completed, you may qualify for some crime prevention devices for your home, car, or for your personal safety.

### **Election of Board Members for 2004**

In the January annual meeting we elect board members and officers for the West Plaza Neighborhood Association to serve for the following year.

The 2003 officers were President: Bob Crutsinger; Vice President: Boyd Williston; Finance: Marlene Toms; Membership: Delois Moore; Secretary; Elizabeth Jacobson. The four members At Large were: Shirley Williston, Paul Minto, Mike Zeller, and John Toms.

In the November general meeting we nominated: President: Bob Crutsinger; Finance: Marlene Toms; Membership: Delois Moore; and three Members At Large: Shirley Williston, Paul Minto, Penny Cox. The Vice President is selected by the Board members from the at-large members.

We still need someone who is willing to as the Secretary, and would like at least one more at-large nomination. We will open the floor to nominations and volunteers for all positions before voting.

You must have your dues paid before or at the January general membership meeting in order to vote on the officers.

### **Off-Leash Park Update**

KC SCOOP (The Kansas City Society of Canine Owners for an Off-Leash Park) reports that construction has actually begun on the Off-leash dog park in Penn Valley! Postholes had been dug and some posts were in the ground by December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Also, the Parks & Recreation crews were able to fix the water pipe leak that was in part of the park area. It looks like dog owners may have a new park for their pooches before the end of 2003. You can check on how well the opening went, and how the new facility is working out, by looking into the society's web site ([www.kcscoop.org](http://www.kcscoop.org)).

West Plaza Neighborhood Association Newsletter  
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Submit suggestions for newsletter articles or association activities to Boyd at his e-mail or postal address (e-mail is preferred). You must include your name and how to contact you for your suggestion to be considered. Articles may be edited for length, accuracy, and grammar. The submitter's name will be used only if permission is granted.

Production of this publication was made possible through support from the KCMO Neighborhood Development (Community Block Grant) and the Missouri Department of Economic Development (Neighborhood Assistance Program)

Advertising rates (display ad other than listing in business membership):

Business card size	\$25 per issue
Quarter page	\$35 per issue
Half page	\$50 per issue

## **Neighbors Watching Out for Neighbors: The New West Plaza E-mail Alert System**

The West Plaza Neighborhood Association knows the importance of keeping you informed about events that may affect you. To this end, the Association newsletter sometimes includes articles about crime activities in the neighborhood. We also frequently invite someone from the police department to general membership meetings to update us on these kinds of activity.

To speed up the process of getting this type of information to you, we are initiating an e-mail alert system. We will send out occasional e-mail notes of criminal activity and similar issues that will help you keep informed about what is happening in and near our neighborhood.

The system is not a substitute for calling the police—it is a tool for awareness. If you see activity that seems out of the ordinary—if it looks like it might be criminal in nature, and you think others should be aware of it so they can take steps to protect themselves or their property, this is the place to report it.

If you wish to be on the e-mail list, or if you wish to report unwelcome activity, please send an e-mail to [WPAAlert@aol.com](mailto:WPAAlert@aol.com). We won't share your address with any other organization or use it for any purpose other than the alert system.

## **Guarding Against Robbery and Assault**

*(Information in this article was taken from the District of Columbia Police Department web page.)*

Robbery and assault are serious crimes. While money is often the motivation, these incidents are considered

crimes of violence because they involve the threat or actual use of physical violence. The basic rules of prevention are to be sensible and to be alert. The following tips will also help reduce the risk of robbery or assault.

### **Personal Safety Tips on the Street**

- If possible, don't walk alone during late-night hours. Walk in groups whenever you can—there is always safety in numbers. Always try to walk to and from the building in groups.
- Let a family member or friend know your destination and your estimated time of arrival or return. That way, the police can be notified as quickly as possible if there is a problem.
- Stay in well-lit areas as much as possible. Avoid alleys, vacant lots, wooded areas, and other short-cuts or secluded areas. They are usually not well-lit or heavily traveled.
- Walk on the sidewalk whenever possible. Walk close to the curb, avoiding doorways, bushes, and other potential hiding places.
- If you have to walk in the street, walk facing traffic. A person walking with traffic can be followed, forced into a car, and abducted more easily than a person walking against traffic.
- Walk confidently, directly, and at a steady pace. Don't stop to talk to strangers.
- Wear clothing and shoes that give you freedom of movement. And don't burden yourself with too many packages or items.
- Always be aware of your surroundings. If you are wearing headphones, don't turn up the volume so high that you cannot hear outside noises.
- Never hitchhike or accept rides from strangers.
- Report any suspicious activity or person immediately to the Police Department at 816.234-5000. Or, if it is an emergency, dial 9-1-1.
- Avoid carrying large sums of cash, or displaying expensive jewelry in public

### **Basic Street Smarts**

- Wherever you are—on the street, in an office building or shopping mall, driving, waiting for a bus or subway—stay alert and tuned in to your surroundings.
- Send the message that you're calm, confident, and know where you're going.
- **Trust your instincts. If something or someone makes you uneasy, avoid the person or leave.**
- Know the neighborhoods where you live and work.
- Check out the locations of police and fire stations, public telephones, hospitals, and restaurants, or stores that are open late.

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### If Someone Tries to Rob You

- Don't resist. Give up your property—don't give up your life.
- Report the crime to the police. Try to describe the attacker accurately. Your actions can help prevent others from becoming victims.
- Self defense measures are most effective when applied as preventive steps—avoiding the crime in the first place.
- These measures include running away, hiding, screaming, and raising an alarm—remember, more people will respond to someone yelling "Fire" than they will to "Help!"

### Safety in Your Vehicle

- The crime of "carjacking" – which is stealing a car by force – captures headlines across the country. Statistically speaking, however, your chances of being a victim of carjacking are very slim, and taking preventive measures can reduce that risk even more.
- If the carjacker threatens you with a gun or other weapon, **give up your car**. Don't argue. Your life is definitely worth more than a car.
- Get away from the area as quickly as possible.
- Try to remember what the carjacker looked like—sex, race, age, hair and eye color, special features, clothes.
- **Report the crime immediately to the police.**

### Automated Teller Machine (ATM) Safety Tips

- Try to use machines you are familiar with, and try to use terminals located in banks rather than independent terminals.
- Be aware of your surroundings. Look around before conducting a transaction. If you see anyone or anything suspicious, cancel your transaction and go to another ATM.
- If you must use an ATM after hours, make sure it's well-lit.
- Never walk away from an ATM with cash still in hand. If you are going to count your money, do so at the ATM.
- When making an ATM transaction from your car, be aware of your surroundings. Keep your eyes and ears open, and keep car doors locked

### Preventing Assaults

- Assaults are basically fights carried out with or without a weapon at home or in a public space, between strangers, (frequently) among friends, acquaintances, or loved ones.

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## WPNA Business Members

### SHELTON TRAVEL

4800 Belleview  
816-753-4888

### PLAZA PANTRY GROCERY

4802 Belleview  
816-753-8225

### LE NAIL'S SALON

4804 Belleview  
816-931-0303

### JIM JOHNSON CONTINENTAL PRINTING

4806 Belleview  
816-756-5560

### LADNER ASSOCIATES CPA

4808 Belleview  
816-561-7580

### HALLELUJAH BOUTIQUE

Alterations & Repairs  
4706 Holly  
**816-931-7396**

### FINAL DRAFT SECRETARIAL SERVICE

4401 Genessee  
816-931-2276

### KATE'S CANINE RESORT

207 W 31<sup>ST</sup>  
816-753-4188

### THE 4433 BARBERSHOP

4433 State Line  
Call for Appointment  
816-753-4004

### CATHY'S CLIPS & CURL SALON

4301 Wyoming  
816-561-2331

### 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 47<sup>th</sup> Street  
816-753-4334

### BERGAMOT & IVY, INC.

1713 Westport Road  
816-561-5599

### Judy Klemm REMAX PREMIER

3515 W. 75 St.  
913-529-1408

### COPYMATE PRINT CENTER

4312 Terrace  
816-931-4122

### HOME SOLUTIONS WE BUY HOUSES!!!

816-682-3998

### SUNSHINE FLOWERS

4509 Rainbow Blvd  
913-384-5034

### WESTPORT-PLAZA DENTAL ASSOCIATES

Park Plaza Building  
801 W 47<sup>th</sup> Suite 408  
816-561-6150

### JENNINGS TREE CARE

4505 State Line  
816-931-3399

### WESTPORT LAUNDROMAT

1409 Westport Road  
816-531-8889

### VALLEY VIEW BANK

4550 Belleview  
913-381-3311

### HAIR STYLE

4500 Bell  
816-531-4545

### ACT II

1417 W 47<sup>th</sup>  
816-531-7572

### CARPE DIEM AESTHETICS

2115 W 43<sup>rd</sup> Ave, KCKS  
913-707-4798

### LAW OFFICE OF KENT L. KERSTEN

4610 Holly  
816-531-0007

### PLAZA CHIROPRACTIC

1507 West 47<sup>th</sup> Street  
816-931-4601

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- The most serious assaults are known as "aggravated assaults," "assaults with a deadly weapon," or "assaults with intent to kill."
- Less serious offenses are called "simple assaults." In many cases, simple assaults turn into more serious assaults or even homicides, if the initial argument or fight is not scaled back or resolved quickly.
- While some assaults are unavoidable, use the following tips to make sure simple arguments do not turn violent or deadly:
- If you are involved in a heated argument that appears to be turning violent, walk away. If you stay and fight "to prove something," you will only demonstrate poor judgment in almost every instance.
- Never carry a firearm, knife, or other illegal weapon. A weapon will definitely escalate the situation, and it could ultimately be used to harm innocent people or yourself.
- Avoid excessive drinking, or if you have been drinking, recognize its impact on your judgment. Alcohol is a contributing factor in many assaults.
- If you see an assault in progress, dial **9-1-1** immediately to alert the police. **Do not** jump into the fray, unless it is a last resort to prevent more serious injury.

### **THANK YOU – WPNA VOLUNTEERS**

The goal of the WPNA as stated in our organization by-laws is "to improve the quality of life in the neighborhood". In achieving this goal, many thanks to the team of volunteers delivering the newsletter door-to-door, that assist with the clean-ups, participate in the annual garage sale, coordinate the annual picnic, and many of the other neighborhood projects! This dedication to our neighborhood makes West Plaza a unique location recognized by the residents across the Kansas City region.

### **Sources of Help If Your Property Is In Need Repair**

#### **Municipal Court Fund Program -- (816) 513-3200**

The Municipal Court Fund Program (MCFP) of Kansas City is funded through fines collected by the Municipal Housing Court from property maintenance code violators. The MCFP is designed to provide assistance to homeowners who, through financial hardship, find themselves in violation of the City Property Maintenance Code. The program eliminates the code violation by contracting for either the labor and materials or providing the materials for repairs to the homeowner. Assistance from the MCFP is only provided to homeowners referred from the Housing Court or city code enforcement officers. For more information on the MCFP, contact the program manager at the number listed above.

#### **Neighborhood Paint Program -- (816) 513-3200**

The Neighborhood Paint Program (NPP) of Kansas City is a three-way partnership between the NPP, neighborhoods and homeowners. The NPP provides free exterior paint to eligible homeowners throughout the city. The neighborhoods register to participate and provide applications to homeowners in their area. The homeowners are responsible for getting the houses painted once supplies are received. To be eligible and receive paint, the homeowner must own and occupy the house. For more information on the NPP, call at the number listed above and ask for the Neighborhood Paint Program.

<p><b>!!!Recycle!!!</b>  48<sup>th</sup> and Forrest  Wednesday through Friday 11 am – 5:30 pm  Saturday 8 am – 4 pm  Note the new place and time</p>
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## **Join Your Neighbors in the WPNA**

Please fill out the information below and return along with your check to:

West Plaza Neighborhood Association ~ P.O. Box 32826 ~ Kansas City, MO 64171-7826

New  Renewal  Household (\$12)  Senior (\$7)  Business (\$25)

\*\*\*\*\*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to help the neighborhood with:

Picnic  Property Maintenance/Zoning

Yard Sale  Neighborhood clean-up

Crime prevention  Distribute newsletter

Refreshments for meetings

(January 2004 Newsletter)