

WEST PLAZA

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



This Year's Picnic a Delicious Success!

The annual West Plaza Neighborhood picnic, held on Saturday, May 20, in Westwood Park, was attended by more than 50 neighbors and friends. Hot dogs, hamburgers, baked beans, and many other delicious side dishes (who brought that wonderful asparagus!?) and desserts brought by our neighbors were enjoyed by everyone. While the kids batted at and finally broke the traditional piñata, adults were entertained by participating in the silent auction. New this year, the auction offered gift certificates and items from many of our generous local businesses. The proceeds will be used to begin installing the West Plaza-Welcome banners on light poles in the neighborhood.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the following businesses who supported our picnic and silent auction. When you shop or are looking for a service provider, please keep them in mind and remember their generosity to our neighborhood.

Act II
Beauty Brands
Bergamot & Ivy
Boozefish Wine Bar
Capital Grille
Cathy's Clip & Curl Salon
Costco
Curves
David Allen State Farm Insurance

Dogs' World of Fun
Eden Alley Café & Catering
Final Draft Secretarial Service
First Watch
Fitness Together
Greenwich West
Hair Style
Jennings Tree Care
Jerusalem Café & Bakery
JJ's Restaurant
Judy Klemm - RE/MAX
Le Nails Salon
Marsh's Sun Fresh
Montanari Fine Art Jewelers
OrganizeME
Precision Optics of Westport
Print Tekk
Quik Trip
Shelton Travel Service
Sunshine Flowers
Valley View Bank
Westport Laundromat

Thank you also to everyone who donated their time and energy to our picnic. We are able to enjoy events like the picnic because of those who volunteer their time and talents to make it happen. Working together, we not only get to know our neighbors, we also create a neighborhood we are all proud to call home. Join the fun and meet new friends by volunteering!

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.

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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
Full page	\$100 per issue

Your West Plaza Real Estate Agent Penelope Cox

This section of your newsletter is a service for you. Send any questions you may have regarding real estate to: pcox@KW.com

Air Conditioning Systems

Q: Dear Penny: Can you tell me anything about the changes that are going on with air conditioning units? What do I do if I need to buy a new unit?

A: There are new federally mandated HVAC requirements for the manufacturer that are important to know about. These changes may have an impact on homes with central air conditioning systems and may impact the sale or purchase of your next home.

Central air conditioners are rated according to their Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER). The higher the SEER, the more efficient the unit is. The previous efficiency standard took effect in 1992 and required a minimum SEER of 10. In January 2006, the SEER requirement increased to 13. The purchase and implementation of these new units may be a bit costly, but they are more efficient.

The impact of the new SEER requirements are as follows:

- 1) The 10 SEER will no longer be manufactured, and once the existing supply of 10 SEER equipment is depleted, only the new 13 SEER equipment will be available.
- 2) The new 13 SEER may need to be compatible with the other components in the HVAC system. In other words, if the condenser needs to be replaced, the evaporative coil and air handler may need to be upgraded.
- 3) The system will be larger and heavier, which may require additional structure modifications, like a larger cement pad.
- 4) The 13 SEER requires about 40% more Freon than previous equipment.

So, if you are selling your home or purchasing a new home or simply want to buy a new air conditioner, be aware of the new SEER requirements before you head out to buy replacement parts for your old AC. Be aware of the new standards before you purchase a new unit or replacement parts.

This requirement affects the manufacturer. The homeowner is NOT required to change their existing AC units. For more information go to www.energy.gov

Computer Safety

Once computers were mysterious, technical devices operated by a strange class of scientifically-minded individuals.

Now computers are so common that most of us don't even think about how many we use every day. Many of us have cell phones that have more computing power than a business mainframe had only a few years ago.

The typical home computer, consisting of a central processing unit, monitor, keyboard and mouse, is really a very powerful device.

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(Computer Safety, continued from page 2)
Unfortunately, there are a lot of individuals and groups out there that want to take over your computer and use it for illegal or unethical purposes. And they have the ability to do just that if you don't protect yourself.

The problem has gotten so bad that it's not just technical publications that write about it. The July 17th issue of *Business Week* has a cover story of 9 pages about just one type of such "malware."

Here are some of the types of such activities that happen:

- Something sneaks onto your computer and damages files.
- Someone steals personal information (such as credit card numbers or bank account numbers).
- You suddenly notice strange pop-up ads (part of the *Business Week* article topic).
- Your computer is used to forward or send spam (unwanted bulk mail).
- Your computer is used to "attack" a business, shutting down its Internet access.
- Someone steals files off of your computer, and you have to pay to get them back.

All of these (as well as other things) really have happened. And if you have moved from a simple dial-up to broadband (DSL or cable), you are even more at risk.

So what can you do? Here are some safety tips.

- Install a good anti-virus program and keep it updated. A good anti-virus program has updates at least once a week.
- Get a good firewall. A firewall makes it much more difficult for someone to get into your computer from the Internet.

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WPNA Business Members

SHELTON TRAVEL

4800 Belleview Ave.
816-753-4888

FITNESS TOGETHER

4802 Belleview Ave.
816-841-5129
www.fitnessstogether.com

LE NAIL'S SALON

4804 Belleview Ave.
816-931-0303

YING'S COFFEE AND DELI

4806 Belleview Ave.
913-526-7457

LADNER ASSOCIATES CPA

4808 Belleview Ave.
816-561-7580

CATHY'S CLIP & CURL SALON

4301 Wyoming St.
816-561-2331

DOG'S WORLD OF FUN

1220 W. 31st St.
816-931-5822

BOOZEFISH WINE BAR

1511 Westport Road
816-561-5995

CURVES

1010 Westport Road
816-753-5707

SUNSHINE FLOWERS

4509 Rainbow Blvd.
913-384-5034

ORGANIZE ME

1105 W. 37th St.
816-561-6901

JUDY KLEMM

REMAX PREMIER REALTY

3515 W. 75th St.
913-529-1408 (or 406-9204)

PENELOPE COX Keller Williams Realty Key Partners, LLC

Direct Office: 913-825-7582
Cell: 816-728-3154

FINAL DRAFT SECRETARIAL SERVICE

4401 Genessee St.
816-931-2276

ROCKHOLD GROUP

Graphic Design
816-531-9062
www.rockholdgroup.com

WESTPORT LAUNDROMAT

1409 Westport Road
816-531-8889

HAIR STYLE

4500 Bell St.
816-531-4545

GREENWICH WEST

1801 Westport Road
816-561-8411

DAVID ALLEN STATE FARM INSURANCE

1414 W. 47th St.
816-753-4334

BERGAMOT & IVY, INC.

1713 Westport Road
816-561-5599

JENNINGS TREE CARE

4505 State Line
816-931-3399

VALLEY VIEW BANK

4550 Belleview Ave.
913-381-3311

PRECISION OPTICS OF WESTPORT

4181 Broadway
816-756-3577

PATHWAY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LLC

4600 Madison, Suite 1500
816-756-0640

QUIK TRIP CORP.

5724 Foxridge Dr.
Mission, KS 66202
913-362-3700

ACT II

1417 W. 47th St.
816-531-7572

GARY JENKINS ATTORNEY AT LAW

204 W. Linwood
816-931-3535

PLAZA CHIROPRACTIC

1507 W. 47th Street
816-931-4601

KATE'S CANINE RESORT

2823 Main St.
816-753-4188

(Computer Safety, continued from page 3)

- Keep your computer patched. Whether you are running Windows or a Mac, keep it updated for security. Update both your programs **and** the operating system. And don't keep using an old version of anti-virus software that is no longer being updated.
- Don't open e-mail attachments unless you know the sender **and are expecting the attachment**. It's very easy to make an e-mail look like it came from someone besides the actual originator.
- Never click on links in e-mail to go to a web site. This is especially true for e-mails that ask you to confirm your account with a bank or other financial organization.
- If you are sending an e-mail to several people, use the BCC: (blind copy) feature instead of sending the e-mail to a lot of addresses. If you send it out as a BCC:, each recipient won't see the other BCC: addresses. That way, your e-mail looks more personal, the reader won't have to scroll past a list of names that are not familiar, and no one can collect a list of e-mail addresses from your message.
- Be very wary of downloads, including attachments to e-mail. Unless you are sure that the source is reliable, don't even think about downloading and installing it.

Protecting Your Car

We keep having incidents of cars being broken into. Here are some hints to protect yourself.

- Lock it up. If you have a garage, put the car inside and lock both the car and the garage. If you are parking outside, lock it up. Even if you are stopping for just a few minutes, turn off the engine, remove the keys from the ignition, and lock the doors.
- Keep it lit. Whenever you park outside at night, park in a well lit location.

Even if your car is locked, a thief might decide to break a window to snatch something interesting. So...

- Hide your stuff. Don't leave valuables visible. When you are out shopping, use the trunk to store purchases. If you must leave something in the passenger cabin, put it on the floor in the back and cover it with something like an old blanket.
- Remove electronics. Many car CD players have removable front panels. When you leave your car, remove the panel and put it in a secure place.

Future WPNA Meetings

There is no meeting during the summer. Take care, be safe. We hope to see you at our next meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 19. The last meeting of the year will be held on Tuesday, November 19. The next newsletter will have details of the location and agenda.

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

(July/August 2006 Newsletter)