

WEST PLAZA

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



✓ Mark Your Calendar ✓

Annual Neighborhood Picnic
Saturday, May 19, Noon to 3 p.m.
The Shelter House in Westwood Park

COME TO THE PICNIC!

Our annual neighborhood picnic will be held again this year at the shelter house at Westwood Park on Saturday, May 19, noon until 3 p.m. It will be a time to enjoy old friends and make new ones. Lots of fun activities are planned for kids of all ages (including the traditional piñata). We've reserved the ball diamond in case anyone wants to hit a few grounders or pop-ups. And there will be lots of good food to eat. West Plaza Deli (4806 Bellevue) is providing barbecue...we're not quite sure what they're going to barbecue, but it will be good...as well as Jamie's Famous Bean Salad. We'll also have hot dogs, hamburgers, and potato chips. Please bring your own specialty side dish or dessert to share with your neighbors.

Some great door prizes have been donated this year by our loyal and generous business members. Need a haircut or thinking about a new style? Hair Style (45th & Bell) is providing a gift certificate for their services. How about fresh cut flowers for your home or for a friend? You may win a gift certificate from Bergamot & Ivy (1713 Westport Road). Many other items are in the offering.

A new feature this year is the Picnic PassAlong. This is like a no-money-exchanged swap meet. Bring one usable household item that you no longer want. The item should be something you might like to have

yourself (except that obviously, if you're bringing it, you don't want it!). It could be anything from a toaster to a potted plant. A child's game or an unwanted Christmas gift.

We will display all the items, and everybody at the picnic will get to choose an item they want. Ideally, by the end of the picnic, everything will have been claimed. However, if there are any leftovers, they will be taken to a local thrift store.

The Rules:

- Bring only one item per person
- It must be usable, clean, and in good condition
- No computer parts or tires, please!
- It must be able to be easily lifted and carried by a 100-pound woman (guess who's going to be taking these things to the thrift store if no one takes them home...)

There may be a few other surprises at the picnic, some of which we may not have even thought up yet. We're predicting beautiful weather...not too hot, not too cold, and lots of sunshine. Please plan on attending and joining in the fun. Bring a lawn chair, bring a side dish, bring a PassAlong, and bring your friends!

Meet Kevin Pinkowski, Board Member

Kevin Pinkowski is a recent addition to the WPNA Board. He has been in the neighborhood for 2½ years and absolutely loves it. The night he was moving in, his neighbors banged on the door at 11:30 to make sure he was going to come to the party down the street.

(continued on page 2)

West Plaza Neighborhood Association Newsletter
Edited by Julie A. Tenenbaum
Home Address: 4401 Genessee, Kansas City, MO 64111-4359
Phone: 816-931-2276 (home)
e-mail: JATKC@aol.com

Submit suggestions for newsletter articles or association activities to Julie at her e-mail address. You must include your name and your contact information 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

Meet Kevin Pinkowski, Board Member

(continued from page 1)

Kevin is originally from Memphis, TN, and landed in Kansas City after he graduated from KU in '97. He works for Kaw Valley Engineering as a project engineer performing inspections on commercial construction sites. His hobbies include working on his house on Genessee (a fixer-upper when he bought it that he hopes will be done this summer), running, biking, triathlons, backpacking, photography, woodworking, and cooking, but his true passion is the environment.

He is heavily involved with the local chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council (an organization that promotes environmentally construction practices and healthy buildings), and he will be helping out with the recycling and trash initiatives during his time on the Board. On occasion, you might see him perusing curbside items on Bulky Item pickup day for recycling or his own personal use. If asked, he will proudly show off the items that he has transformed from trash to art (including his kitchen countertops).

Some other things Kevin will do during his time on the Board are managing newsletter distribution, acting as liaison to the Kansas City Neighborhood Alliance, directing trash and recycling for the upcoming neighborhood picnic, and assisting with zoning and other City issues. If you would like more information about trash collection or recycling or would be interested in distributing newsletters, please contact Kevin at kpinkowski@yahoo.com.

Spring Cleanup: Dumpsters at the Park!

It's time to clean out! To help keep the neighborhood clean and attractive, the WPNA has contracted with the City once again to provide two dumpsters for a Spring

Cleanup event. One dumpster will be available for leaves and brush (no plastic bags, large wood, or other trash, please) and the other for items that are too large for weekly trash pickup.

On Saturday, May 19, the dumpsters, staffed by neighborhood volunteers, will be placed on Wyoming on the east side of Westwood Park. Residents can begin bringing their items at 7 a.m.

A few reminders:

- As always, the dumpsters are expected to fill up quickly, so bring your "contributions" early in the day.
- The dumpsters are paid for by the City and the WPNA. Therefore, this service is for West Plaza residents only. If they don't know you, volunteers will ask for a form of identification, so bring your driver's license or a monthly bill showing your address.
- There are restrictions on items you can bring. Do not bring computer components, tires, paint, or any kind of hazardous waste (see article on Trash for examples). They will not be accepted.
- Timing of this event is approximate; the bins are delivered and picked up by the city, so although we expect to be up and running by 7 o'clock, please understand that it may be a little later than that.
- **Do not come earlier than 7 o'clock, and do not leave items outside the bins, please.** Our volunteers are not paid to do heavy lifting, and we shouldn't ask them to. In fact, they're not paid at all!

And speaking of volunteers, if you would like to help with this effort, please call Joe Montanari at (816) 531-0750.

More Ways to Clear Out Your House: Yard Sales and Donations to Charity

The WPNA is ready to help you clear out your house. The Neighborhood Yard Sale is coming up on Saturday, June 2. Have a yard sale this summer! If the task seems too daunting, invite a neighbor to have a sale with you. To register your sale and take advantage of the free publicity provided by the WPNA (ad in *the Star*, flyers with maps at participating houses), call Boyd Williston (816-931-0194).

There are other easy ways to pass along things you don't want. Consider donating your outgrown or no-longer-needed items to charity. In many cases, donations are tax deductible.

Used clothing and household goods:

- Goodwill Industries, 816-842-7425
- Disabled American Veterans, 816-836-0368
- Halfy's Thrift Boutique, 913-677-9086. All proceeds benefit The Pet Connection, a no-kill animal shelter, www.pet-connection.com

Useable building materials. Habitat for Humanity, 816-924-1096

Computers and office equipment. Surplus Exchange, 816-472-0444. Fees charged to accept some items.

SAVE THIS PAGE!

All About Trash

One of the first questions new residents often ask is, What do I do with my trash?

There are many ways to dispose of household trash and debris in the West Plaza. The city of Kansas City provides free weekly curbside trash pickup. In the West Plaza, pickup for residents north of 47th Street is on Monday mornings. South of 47th Street, the trash is picked up on Friday mornings. On weeks containing national holidays, pickup occurs one day later.

Trash must be placed in plastic trash bags, and each bag must weigh no more than 40 pounds. The city will pick up two bags from each household for free each week. Additional bags will be picked up as long as each prominently displays a red trash tag, which can be purchased for \$1 each from Price Chopper and Westlake Ace Hardware. Trash must be at the curb no later than 7 a.m. on the day of the pickup. It can be placed earlier, but not before 3 o'clock on the previous day. Trash should not be left at the curb at other times during the week, and residents may be fined by the city for leaving trash out at inappropriate times.

Curbside Recycling

You can easily cut your trash in half by participating in the City's voluntary curbside recycling program. This is an excellent way to dispose of many things in an environmentally responsible way and to avoid the additional expense of \$1 bag tags. To begin, you will need a blue recycling bin, which can be obtained for free by calling Citizen Service (816-513-1313) to receive a coupon; additional bins can be purchased at Price Chopper or Westlake Ace Hardware for about \$13.

Recyclable Items. These materials must be put in the blue recycling bin (they can be mixed) and placed at the curb on pickup morning. If you have more recyclables than the bin will hold, bundle the extra materials neatly and place them beside the bin, or put them in a cardboard box.

- aluminum and other metal cans
- plastic bottles with a neck, such as water and soda bottles, milk jugs, and detergent bottles (look for the #1 and #2 triangular recycling symbols on the bottles)
- paper, such as office paper, newspapers, magazines, catalogs, and phone books
- cardboard, such as corrugated cartons
- paperboard, such as thin cereal boxes and paper towel and toilet paper rolls

Non-Recyclables. Some items are not recyclable at all, and some items are not collected curbside but are welcome at the local recycling center. The following items are currently not recyclable in Kansas City.

- plastic bags
- motor oil bottles or other containers which have held chemical or other hazardous products
- paper towels, tissues, napkins, paper plates or cups
- waxed paper containers such as juice boxes
- gift wrap
- plastic food tubs, like yogurt or margarine tubs
- any plastic items that are not labeled #1 or #2 or do not have a neck

Recyclable items not accepted curbside but welcome at the recycling center.

If you are willing to drive a couple miles to the nearest recycling center at 48th and Forest (one block east of Troost), you can recycle the following items, plus many more. To find out more about materials accepted at recycling centers, call 816-561-1090 or go online to www.bridgingthegap.org -> Programs -> Recycling -> What Can I Recycle?

- shredded paper
- egg cartons
- styrofoam blocks and packing peanuts
- household batteries, cell phones, pagers
- VCR tapes and cassettes
- CDs, DVDs, floppy disks
- clean aluminum foil
- scrap metal
- newspaper sleeves
- clear, brown and green glass bottles
- toner and ink jet cartridges
- computers and electronics (fee charged)

Bulky Item Collection. The city picks up large items, such as refrigerators and furniture, for free in our neighborhood six times a year. This year's remaining dates are June 26, August 26, October 26, and December 26, 2007. In most cases, items will be removed on the pickup date or no later than three days thereafter. The bulky item truck is equipped with a large hydraulic arm, so items must be placed at the curb where the driver can reach them. When placing items for pickup, consider that overhanging tree branches, overhead wires, and parked cars can make it difficult or impossible for the driver to reach the items.

The city does not provide free pickup of building materials. If you are remodeling and need to dispose of building materials, you should arrange with a private hauler to provide a dumpster. If you have leftover but useable building materials, consider giving them to Habitat for Humanity (816-924-1096).

The West Plaza Neighborhood Association sponsors a cleanup twice year to help neighbors keep their houses and yards free of excess items. See article elsewhere in this newsletter for details.

Tires, Batteries, and Hazardous Waste. The city does not pick up tires, auto parts, car batteries, paint, chemicals, or other potentially hazardous materials. Tires may be disposed of by dropping them off at Kansas City's Environmental Campus at 4707 Deramus Avenue on April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7, August 4, September 1 and October 6. A small fee is charged for tire disposal (\$3 for a rimless automobile tire; \$4.50 if it is mounted on a rim). Call first for times, fees, and directions (816-784-2080).

Household hazardous waste, such as paint, household chemicals, and motor oil may be taken to 4707 Deramus from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. An appointment is required to drop off hazardous waste so the workers will be prepared for the type of materials you are bringing. Call 816-784-2080 to make arrangements and for directions to the site.

Leaves and Brush. The city picks up leaves and brush and other organic yard waste twice a year: once in the spring and once in the fall. Unfortunately, the spring pickup will have happened by the time you read this. City workers will pick up as many as 20 bags of leaves or bundles of branches from each household. Leaves must be in paper leaf bags, not plastic bags. Branches must be bundled, not exceeding 24" in diameter or 4' in length. Bundles should be tied with jute rope or twine, and not wire or plastic tape. If you wish to seal the leaf bags, use paper masking tape only (no duct tape).

Other options for leaf and brush disposal are utilizing a private service such as Lawn Corps (816-761-3046) or by checking out the University of Missouri's Extension Service information about backyard composting at www.extension.missouri.edu and searching for "composting."

Trash collection is one of the most valuable services the city provides, and they do it for free. By playing by the rules, you can keep your home and yard and the neighborhood we all share clean and inviting. By recycling, you are helping to reduce the cost of managing trash and at the same time reducing the amount of trash going into the landfills, thus helping to ensure a clean environment for yourself and for future generations.

Much of the information found in this article is on the web at www.kcmo.org -> City Services -> Trash Collection or Recycling.



Upcoming Events

WPNA activities in the next couple of months are all about helping neighbors clean up their property, clean out their houses, and celebrate our community. See the articles related to each of these events in this newsletter.

- Sat., May 19 Neighborhood Cleanup – 7 a.m. - ??
- Sat., May 19 Annual Picnic 12 noon – 3 p.m.
- Sat., June 2 Neighborhood Yard Sales

WPNA general membership meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of odd numbered months at The Point Annex, 911 West 44th Street. The picnic replaces the May meeting, and there is no meeting in July. Scheduled meetings after the summer break are as follows:

- September 18, 2007
- November 20, 2007

Please come to our events, and bring your neighbors!

Board Members

Members of the board can be contacted by phone:

Paul Minto	816-756-2180
Joe Montanari	816-531-0750
Ed O'Donnell	816-531-4692
Kevin Pinkowski	913-486-7043
Julie Tenenbaum	816-931-2276
John Toms	816-531-8251
Marlene Toms	816-531-8251
Boyd Williston	816-931-0194
Shelley Zimmerman	816-756-2834

Board members are volunteers who donate their time and energy to keep the neighborhood a good place to live. We welcome participation by anyone who shares that goal.

These are the businesses that support our neighborhood both by their membership in the WPNA and by underwriting or contributing to our activities. Show them you appreciate their support by patronizing them whenever you have the opportunity.

WPNA Business Members

<p>ACT II 1417 W. 47th St. 816-531-7572</p> <p>BERGAMOT & IVY, INC. 1713 Westport Road 816-561-5599</p> <p>BOOZEFISH WINE BAR 1511 Westport Road 816-561-5995</p> <p>CATHY'S CLIP & CURL SALON 4301 Wyoming St. 816-561-2331</p> <p>COLDWELL BANKER ADVANTAGE MIDTOWN 1607 Westport Road 816-960-1400</p> <p>CURVES 1010 Westport Road 816-753-5707</p> <p>DAVID ALLEN STATE FARM INSURANCE 1414 W. 47th St. 816-753-4334</p> <p>DOG'S WORLD OF FUN 1220 W. 31st St. 816-931-5822</p> <p>EDDIE DELAHUNT'S CAFÉ & 1811 West 45th St. 816-753-3322</p> <p>FINAL DRAFT SECRETARIAL SERVICE 4401 Genessee St. 816-931-2276</p> <p>FITNESS TOGETHER 4802 Belleview Ave. 816-841-5129 www.fitnessotogether.com</p>	<p>GARY JENKINS ATTORNEY AT LAW 204 W. Linwood 816-931-3535</p> <p>GREENWICH WEST 1801 Westport Road 816-561-8411</p> <p>HAIR STYLE 4500 Bell St. 816-531-4545</p> <p>JENNINGS TREE CARE 4505 State Line 816-931-3399</p> <p>JUDY KLEMM REMAX PREMIER REALTY 3515 W. 75th St. 913-529-1408 (or 406-9204)</p> <p>KATE'S CANINE RESORT 2823 Main St. 816-753-4188</p> <p>KURT AARONS, DDS 4411 Belleview 816-531-2070</p> <p>LADNER ASSOCIATES CPA 4808 Belleview Ave. 816- 561-7580</p> <p>MONTANARI FINE ART JEWELERS 4810 Belleview 816-531-0750 www.montanarjewelers.com</p> <p>ORGANIZE ME 816-529-6901</p> <p>PATHWAY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LLC 4600 Madison, Suite 1500 816-756-0640</p>	<p>PENELOPE COX Keller Williams Realty Key Partners, LLC Direct Office: 913-825-7582 Cell: 816-728-3154</p> <p>PLAZA CHIROPRACTIC 1507 W. 47th Street 816-931-4601</p> <p>PRECISION OPTICS OF WESTPORT 4181 Broadway 816-756-3577</p> <p>PRINT TEKK PRINTING & MAILING 4312 Terrace 816-931-4122</p> <p>QUIK TRIP 301 Westport Road 816-931-6886</p> <p>SHELTON TRAVEL 4800 Belleview Ave. 816-753-4888</p> <p>SUNSHINE FLOWERS 4509 Rainbow Blvd. 913-384-5034</p> <p>WEST PLAZA DELI 4806 Belleview Ave. 816-256-4415</p> <p>WEST PLAZA SALON 4804 Belleview Ave. 816-931-0303</p> <p>WESTPORT LAUNDROMAT 1409 Westport Road 816-531-8889</p> <p>VALLEY VIEW BANK 4550 Belleview Ave. 913-381-3311</p>
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Recently there has been some discussion about rundown properties in our neighborhood, many of which are rental properties, and how to encourage owners to fix them up. There is a general feeling among the West Plaza Board members that the City's current system for code enforcement is weak and inadequate in a number of ways. It has been

Putting the "Neighbor" Back In Neighborhood!



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1607 Westport Road
Kansas City, MO 64111
816-960-1400

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Robberies and What You Can do to Protect Yourself

The last several *Kansas City Star* Crime Logs have shown that several street robberies and home burglaries have occurred within the boundaries of the West Plaza neighborhood. One robbery occurred at 2:00 a.m. near 44th Street and Holly.

Robbery is mainly a nighttime crime, increasing after 8:00 p.m. and subsiding after 3:00 a.m. in most areas.

Robberies often occur more frequently during the winter months because of extended periods of darkness. Dozens of robbery studies have indicated that robbers prefer isolation, lone victims, good escape routes, and few witnesses in addition to a good cash score. No one consciously invites a robbery, but victims can send signals that tell the assailant "I'm an easy target." Street criminals look for an easy mark. Not the oldest or the weakest, but the easiest. People who look like they're in a fog are at greater risk of becoming the prey of a criminal.

There are many things that you can do to reduce your chances of becoming a victim.

- If you think you are being followed, don't head home. Run or drive to a place of safety such as a police station, fire station, or other open business, like Quik Trip to get help.
- If bumped from behind, don't immediately exit your car. Assess the situation. If you feel uneasy, stay in your car. If the other vehicle leaves the scene, try to note the tag number and vehicle description, but do not follow them.
- Avoid parking in isolated areas. Be especially alert in parking lots and garages.
- Always have your car or house key in hand before you reach these doors.
- If you are out walking and someone asks directions, do not approach them or their car. Keep plenty of distance between you. It's okay to be impolite and cautious.
- If someone threatens you with a weapon, give up your purse, wallet, or car immediately. Your life is far more important, and irreplaceable.
- Remember...dark parking lots are not the only place robberies occur. Shopping malls, grocery stores, and even movie theaters are desirable places for criminals to find potential victims. Don't be fooled by a

Join Your Neighbors

Please fill out the information below and return to:
West Plaza Neighborhood Association ~ P.O. Box 32

Check One: New Re
Check One: Household (\$12) Senior (\$
Check if you **DO NOT** want to receive phone reminders

I would like to receive the newsletter