

# WEST PLAZA

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



### ✓ Mark Your Calendar ✓

**General Meeting**  
**Tuesday, November 20, 7 p.m.**  
**The Point Annex** (911 W. 44<sup>th</sup> Street)  
**Guest Speaker:**  
**Charles (Chip) Schmelzer**  
**Chairman, Westport Go! Task Force**  
**Door Prize: \$25 Gift Card,**  
**Eddie Delahunt's Café &**

The intersection of 43<sup>rd</sup> Street, Westport Road, and Southwest Trafficway has been a topic of concern for the city of Kansas City and its citizens for many years, especially for those who traverse it daily. It is one of the city's busiest and most poorly configured crossroads, and it is also one of the city's most unsafe areas as far as traffic accidents are concerned.

Recently, Westport Go! Task Force, an organization of citizens representing a large cross-section of businesses, property owners, residential neighborhoods, non-profits, and public organizations in the areas neighboring the intersection, submitted a set of proposals to the City to address the issue.

At our November meeting, Mr. Schmelzer will talk to us about their proposals to reconfigure the intersection and surrounding areas. The goal of the proposals is to alleviate traffic congestion and reduce the likelihood of automobile and pedestrian accidents, while at the same time preserving the historical and economic identity of the Westport area.

Come with your questions and comments to hear about and discuss this well researched and long-awaited study.

### Have a Question about the City? Go to [www.KCMO.org](http://www.KCMO.org)

When you arrive at a new shopping mall for the first time, it can be a bit overwhelming. How will you find the stores you are looking for, and how on earth will you find your way back to your car? Fortunately, most shopping malls have convenient maps posted at the entrance with a little "x" indicating "you are here," so you can determine which way to go to find J.C. Penney's, where Dillard's is located, and where to find Starbuck's.

Like a giant shopping mall, the City of Kansas City offers lots of services, but it can be difficult to find the right person to answer your questions or the right department to handle your problem. There are helpful guides at the city's 311 Action Center phone line who can often answer your questions and concerns or direct your call to the proper department. If you have a question related to city services, don't hesitate to pick up the phone and call 311.

For those of you with a computer, a "map" is available in the form of the city's website at [www.kcmo.org](http://www.kcmo.org), and here you will find nearly everything there is to know about the city – the mayor, the city council persons, the city manager, and all the various departments and what they do. The website is easy to navigate by pointing and clicking.

If you need to know what day to put your trash bags out, or what the rules are for recycling, just click on "City Services," and then on "Trash Collection." If you want to know what kind of programs the Parks and Recreation Department offers, go to "Recreation" and

(continued on page 2)

**KCMO.org** (continued from page 1)

follow the prompts. Who do you call when your streetlight burns out? Go to "City Services" and click on "Streetlights."

You can look up city ordinances, find out how to apply for permits, and even pay your water bill and traffic tickets online. If you want someone to fix that pothole in the street outside, dial 'em up. Do you play golf? You can schedule a tee time at any of Kansas City's four public courses online. This is just the tip of the iceberg. With a little practice, you will find the city website to be enormously useful. The scope and breadth of the many programs and services the city has to offer may surprise you.

In a way, the city is like that big shopping mall. The website is the map, and the 311 operators are the friendly guides. Happy shopping!

### **Join Us in the WPNA!**

If you are reading this newsletter (written, printed, and distributed by the West Plaza Neighborhood Association), please consider supporting the WPNA by becoming a member. We are a volunteer organization whose members are working to make the West Plaza neighborhood a better place to live and do business. The cost of membership is small – \$12 a year for a resident, \$7 a year for a senior resident – and there are many benefits.

The WPNA conducts activities each year that benefit the whole neighborhood:

- the annual picnic
- the neighborhood yard sales
- twice-yearly Clean Sweep (aka dumpster events)
- the bi-monthly newsletter

WPNA works to obtain grant money to improve our neighborhood. The playground equipment in Westwood Park was funded by one of these grants, and the WPNA is currently working with the Parks Department on a master plan for upgrading the park in general. PIAC money has already been budgeted for proceeding with some of the improvements suggested in this plan. In addition, we are awaiting a decision on our application for PIAC money to improve and replace sidewalks and curbs for many of our streets.

Other neighborhood improvements, like the recently installed overhead banners that announce our identity to those who drive near and through our neighborhood, are funded by the WPNA. A less noticeable but very worthwhile project is providing Mutt Mitts in Westwood Park to dog owners so they can help keep the park clean.

WPNA notifies members about safety issues, neighborhood events, and situations of common interest with a telephone voice messaging service. We also keep our members informed by sponsoring meetings every other month, where speakers include City Council members and representatives from the police force and other city departments.

We provide many of these services to all our neighbors, whether or not they are members; but all of these activities cost money, and we depend on membership fees to pay for them. By joining the WPNA, you strengthen our voice with the city, develop relationships with city service providers, meet your neighbors, and experience the pride of knowing that you are supporting not just the WPNA, but your entire neighborhood as well.

Join now, and become a member for all of 2008! Becoming a member is easy. See page 5 of this newsletter for the application.

This year, membership in the West Plaza Neighborhood Association stands at 145. We have welcomed 34 new members, and we are proud to claim 38 business members.

### **West Plaza Loses a Long-Time Member** by Boyd Williston

Mabel C. Miller, 97, one of the founding members of the West Plaza Neighborhood Association, passed away on Sunday, September 2, 2007. Some of the very early meetings of the WPNA were held in her home. When she was in better health, Mabel attended meetings regularly and helped out in many ways. For the last few years, she stayed pretty close to home. I often saw her on her porch when I walked by, and she always had a friendly greeting. We'll miss her.

## Look! Up in the Sky! It's a Bird! It's a Plane! No, It's the Banners!

by Ed O'Donnell

In a newsletter last year, you were asked to "stay tuned" as we pursued our quest to hang our beautiful blue West Plaza "Welcome" banners. In case you have not looked up recently, ten banners are now proudly flying. They were hung in August: six on the south side of Westport Road, two on 45th Street, and two on 47th Street.

This has been a long stop-and-go project. In January 2004, using money from a self-help grant, we purchased 50 banners from Missouri Poster & Banner. Though a committee was formed, the project got shifted aside and ignored until Julie Tenenbaum took over as president in January of this year. She asked me to collect all the banners from various Board members' basements so they'd all be in one place and to do some research about installing them. The information gathered by the earlier group could not be located, so I had to start from scratch.

I did a lot of walking around West Plaza to find the perfect locations and a lot of calling to find an installer. The Board had many discussions about how many banners to install, where to install them, and how much money we should spend. At \$175 per banner, we wanted to be very careful to make good choices. The Board decided we could afford to hang ten banners right now, thanks partly to contributions from members and proceeds from the silent auction at the 2006 picnic. KC Banner was selected to do the installation, and we decided to hang some on the perimeter and some in the center of the neighborhood.

We will hang more banners as funds permit, but we will hold a number of them back to use as replacements as the originals wear out. The estimated lifespan of a banner is 3 to 5 years.

We are very proud of our banners and hope they inspire a feeling of welcome in visitors to our neighborhood.



## Meet Your Neighbor: Roger Goldblatt

by Toni Gates-Grantham

Roger Goldblatt has been a West Plaza neighbor for over 30 years. He started as a renter in his first residence on Liberty Street and now owns a home at 45<sup>th</sup> and Wyoming. Roger has been a WPNA board member and led a successful neighborhood crime patrol group. With 30 volunteers involved, the patrol was able to have two volunteers keep a watchful eye on things five to seven nights a week.

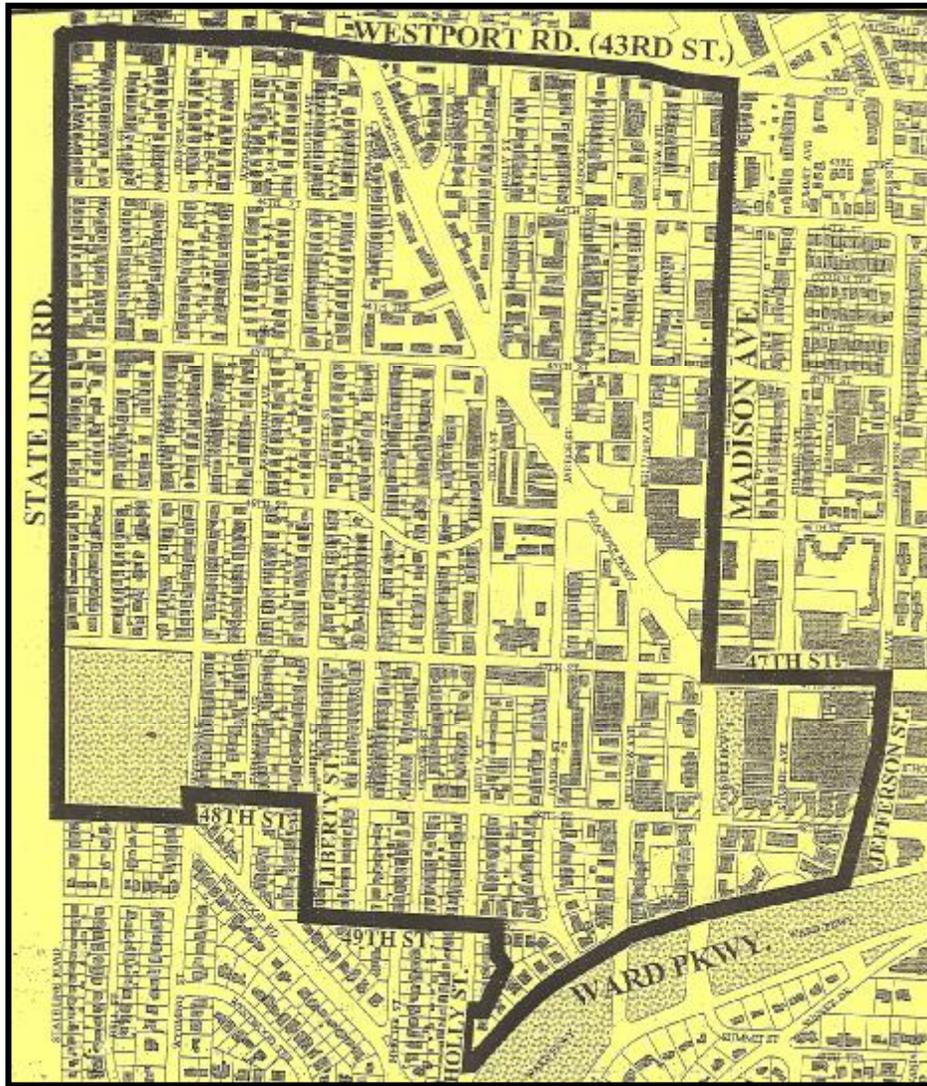
Roger is a master's level social worker who loves dogs, photography, a nice green lawn, movies, art, painting and literature. His latest endeavors include learning Mandarin Chinese and enrolling in the KC Citizen Police Academy to learn how we can improve our neighborhood by working closely with the police department.

Roger thinks the West Plaza is one of the best neighborhoods in Kansas City and especially appreciates the influx of new homes with creative people. He would like to see more people invested in the neighborhood who foster stewardship with their neighbors.

Roger would love to see the West Plaza filled with neighbors who become lifelong friends. Lacking that, he would be satisfied with those who may not be personal friends but who will wave and says "hi," will ask to help out if you're ill, will walk your dog, check the mail or watch your house when you're away. He says these neighbors make the neighborhood sparkle – they're like sunshine.

### Capital Improvements Tax

On the November 6<sup>th</sup> ballot, we will vote on renewing an existing 1-cent tax that has funded more than 500 neighborhood projects across the city, plus hundreds of critical citywide repairs and improvements. Renewing this tax will create more funding for neighborhood projects, like street resurfacing, traffic signals, parks improvements, catch basins and storm water drainage. For more information about the tax, visit [kcstreetsmart.com](http://kcstreetsmart.com) or call 816-276-5688.



## The West Plaza Neighborhood

Part of the original Town of Westport, the West Plaza neighborhood has a rich history, which began when the first English-speaking frontiersmen arrived in the area in the early 1830s. With Westport Road as its "Main Street," Westport thrived as the "gateway to the West" for pioneer wagon trains heading out on the Santa Fe, California, and Oregon Trails. Today, Westport Road forms the northern boundary of the West Plaza neighborhood, and the neighborhood continues to flourish because of its strategic location at the crossroads to everywhere. Immediately west of the famous Country Club

Plaza, the neighborhood enjoys easy access to literally everything Kansas City has to offer, from fine dining to fine art, from antiques to high fashion. A quiet, peaceful residential area, West Plaza is home to the 45th Street Antique District and features beautiful Westwood Park at its western boundary. West Plaza is within easy walking or biking range of KU Medical Center, the Stowers Institute, UMKC, Rockhurst University, Penn Valley Community College, the Kansas City Art Institute, the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, and the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art.

### Upcoming Events-Election of Officers

The annual election of officers and Board members will take place at the January general membership meeting on January 15, 2008. 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 44<sup>th</sup> Street.

West Plaza Neighborhood Association Newsletter  
 Edited by Julie A. Tenenbaum  
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 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.

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
Full page	\$100 per issue

Putting the "Neighbor" Back  
 In Neighborhood!

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Real Estate Office  
 1607 Westport Road  
 Kansas City, MO 64111  
 816-960-1400  
 ColdwellBankerAdvantageMidtown.com

Each office independently owned and operated

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The real estate  
 office with the  
 gallery inside!

**EMAIL SAFETY TIP:** If you receive unsolicited email messages that appear to be from the IRS (usually indicating that some additional refund has been identified), forward the email to phishing@irs.gov. These email messages generally contain the IRS logo and look official. They often have a link or attachment where personal and financial information is requested. NEVER provide any information to these sites, and NEVER go to the links, because they could contain viruses.

## 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

Check One: New  Renewal

Check One: Household (\$12)  Senior (\$7)  Business (\$25)

Check if you **DO NOT** want to receive phone reminders and messages from WPNA:

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  Newsletter Distribution

Refreshments for Meetings

(September-October 2007 Newsletter)

## WPNA Business Members

Please support the businesses that support the WPNA!

<p><b>ACT II</b> 1417 W. 47<sup>th</sup> St. 816-531-7572</p> <p><b>BERGAMOT &amp; IVY, INC.</b> 1713 Westport Road 816-561-5599</p> <p><b>BOOZEFISH WINE BAR</b> 1511 Westport Road 816-561-5995 www.boozefish.com</p> <p><b>CATHY'S CLIP &amp; CURL SALON</b> 4301 Wyoming St. 816-561-2331</p> <p><b>CENTURY 21</b> 1101 Westport Road 816-753-6699 sean.kirkpatrick@century21.com</p> <p><b>COLDWELL BANKER ADVANTAGE MIDTOWN</b> 1607 Westport Road 816-960-1400</p> <p><b>COUNTRY CLUB FINANCIAL</b> Herman Johansen 4545 Belleview 816-360-8628</p> <p><b>CURVES</b> 1010 Westport Road 816-753-5707</p> <p><b>DAVID ALLEN STATE FARM INSURANCE</b> 1414 W. 47<sup>th</sup> St. 816-753-4334</p> <p><b>DOGGIE STYLE BOWTIQUE</b> 1503 Westport Road 816-561-3647 woof@doggiestylebowtique.com</p> <p><b>DOGS' WORLD OF FUN</b> 1220 W. 31st St. 816-931-5822</p> <p><b>EDDIE DELAHUNT'S CAFÉ &amp;</b> 1811 West 45<sup>th</sup> St. 816-753-3322</p>	<p><b>FINAL DRAFT SECRETARIAL SERVICE</b> 4401 Genessee St. 816-931-2276</p> <p><b>FITNESS TOGETHER</b> 4802 Belleview Ave. 816-841-5129 www.fitnessstogether.com</p> <p><b>GARY JENKINS ATTORNEY AT LAW</b> 204 W. Linwood 816-931-3535</p> <p><b>GREENWICH WEST</b> 1801 Westport Road 816-561-8411</p> <p><b>HAIR STYLE</b> 4500 Bell St. 816-531-4545</p> <p><b>JENNINGS TREE CARE</b> 4505 State Line 816-931-3399</p> <p><b>JUDY KLEMM REMAX PREMIER REALTY</b> 3515 W. 75<sup>th</sup> St. 913-529-1408 (or 406-9204)</p> <p><b>KATE'S CANINE RESORT</b> 2823 Main St. 816-753-4188</p> <p><b>KURT AARONS, DDS</b> 4411 Belleview Ave. 816-531-2070</p> <p><b>LADNER ASSOCIATES CPA</b> 4808 Belleview Ave. 816- 561-7580</p> <p><b>MONTANARI FINE ART JEWELERS</b> 4810 Belleview Ave. 816-531-0750 www.montanarijewelers.com</p> <p><b>ORGANIZE ME</b> 816-529-6901</p>	<p><b>PATHWAY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LLC</b> 4600 Madison, Suite 1500 816-756-0640</p> <p><b>PENELOPE COX Keller Williams Realty Key Partners, LLC</b> Direct Office: 913-825-7582 Cell: 816-728-3154</p> <p><b>PLAZA CHIROPRACTIC</b> 1507 W. 47th St. 816-931-4601</p> <p><b>PRECISION OPTICS OF WESTPORT</b> 4181 Broadway 816-756-3577</p> <p><b>PRINT TEKK PRINTING &amp; MAILING</b> 4312 Terrace 816-931-4122</p> <p><b>QUIK TRIP</b> 301 Westport Road 816-931-6886</p> <p><b>SHELTON TRAVEL</b> 4800 Belleview Ave. 816-753-4888</p> <p><b>SUNSHINE FLOWERS</b> 4509 Rainbow Blvd. 913-384-5034</p> <p><b>WEST PLAZA DELI</b> 4806 Belleview Ave. 816-256-4415</p> <p><b>WEST PLAZA SALON</b> 4804 Belleview Ave. 816-931-0303</p> <p><b>WESTPORT LAUNDROMAT</b> 1409 Westport Road 816-531-8889</p> <p><b>VALLEY VIEW BANK</b> 4550 Belleview Ave. 913-381-3311</p>
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## Helpful Phone Numbers

### WASTE MANAGEMENT

Bulky Item Pickup 816-513-3490  
Illegal Dumping 816-513-3485

### HOUSE & CAR

Abandoned Cars 816-513-1313  
Building Permits 816-513-1500  
Code Violations 816-513-9000

### SAFE COMMUNITIES

Abandoned & Vacant Houses 816-513-9000  
Animal Control 816-513-9800  
Community Centers 816-513-7500  
Pet Licensing, Spaying, Neutering 816-513-9800

### PUBLIC SPACE

Street Maintenance 816-513-2777