

WEST PLAZA

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



✓ Mark Your Calendar ✓

Upcoming General Meeting
Tuesday, September 16, 7-8 p.m.

Speaker: Ms. Vernessa Rashaw,
Code Enforcement Officer

In the last newsletter we described the systematic codes inspection program the city is implementing. The West Plaza was selected as one of the pilot neighborhoods (see "Systematic Code Inspections Coming to the West Plaza," June-July-August issue). The purpose of the program is to bring properties in the neighborhood into compliance with Kansas City, Missouri housing ordinances.

The program began this summer and has been in progress since then. Come to this meeting at which Ms. Rashaw, Code Enforcement Officer, will talk about the areas that have been inspected and the code violations that are being pursued. She will also answer any questions or concerns you may have about the inspection program.

Mothers of Preschoolers

If you are a mother of a preschooler, you are invited to a place designed specifically for you. Here you'll experience authentic community, mothering support, personal growth, and spiritual hope, all to help you be the best mom possible. Where is this place? It is called Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS).

A MOPS group has begun meeting the first and third Thursday of each month from 10 to noon at Roanoke Baptist Church (3950 Wyoming). Come and enjoy the free childcare and fun. Contact Tiffany Bradford at Tiffany@Birch.net or 816-756-5935 for more information.

Neighborhood Cleanup October 11

The fall cleanup event will take place on Saturday, October 11, from 8 a.m. until the dumpsters fill up (usually by noon or so). Two dumpsters will be provided – one for yard waste (leaves and brush, grass clippings, etc.) and one for household trash. The dumpsters will be located near the northeast corner of Westwood Park on Wyoming. Neighborhood volunteers will be on hand to assist you in unloading your vehicle. Yard waste may be bundled or loose or in paper bags, but may not be in plastic bags or non-degradable containers. If you are bundling tree branches, please use natural fiber twine, like cotton, jute, or sisal, not plastic or wire.

These bi-annual cleanup events are jointly sponsored by the WPNA and the City of Kansas City, who share the \$300 cost of each dumpster. This is a valuable service and benefit to our neighborhood. We are grateful to Constance Tate and the staff at the Department of Public Works for providing the resources for the event.

The City's rules require that only West Plaza residents participate in this event, so we will be asking everyone to sign the registration sheet. The event is not for businesses or commercial builders. We cannot accept large appliances, tires, batteries, auto parts, or hazardous materials. These items must be taken to the Environmental Campus at 4707 Deramus for disposal (by appointment: 816-784-2080).

Come early on Saturday and take advantage of this terrific free service offered by your neighborhood. This is a great opportunity to clean out the attic, the basement, the garage, and the yard.

Neighborhood Watch Program

As you may have heard recently, there has been some breaking-and-entering crime activity in our neighborhood. On one night, two houses were broken into by cutting glass and unlocking a door or window. It is believed that the same individual perpetrated these crimes: one on the 4400 block of Genessee, and one on the 4700 block of Terrace. A purse was taken from one house, and some electronics from the other.

It is important to remember during the nice weather that windows that are left open during the evening provide easy access for criminals. The window that this particular burglar entered, however, was not open. So, it would appear that we have to take extra precautions at our homes.

The police are working hard to apprehend these criminals, but we are equally responsible for protecting ourselves. This includes closing blinds, thinning out shrubs and bushes close to the house that criminals can hide in, and locking your doors and windows. The KCMO Police Department, as a free service to the public, will come to your house to perform a crime prevention inspection. They will make suggestions about what you can do to reduce your chances of being a victim in your home.

One of our neighbors, Susan Karels, attended a recent Neighborhood Watch meeting to get our neighborhood involved in this program. This is simply an agreement that any neighbor makes to watch for strange activity, suspicious vehicles, or people in their area, and if necessary, call 911. Master Patrol Officer James Schreiber has urged us to call 911 if you have any concern at all about suspicious activity or people in the neighborhood. The police will make the decision to go to the scene or not.

If you are interested in becoming a part of the Neighborhood Watch, please contact Susan Karels at 816-686-5663 or susankarels@yahoo.com. If you want to have a police officer come to your house to offer suggestions to lower your risk of being victimized, contact Master Patrol Officer James Schreiber at 816-719-8350.

Crime prevention in our neighborhood is the responsibility of every resident in the West Plaza. Getting to know our neighbors, watching what goes on in our area with a discerning eye, and being smart about safety in our homes are some of the best precautions we can take. Please help by doing your part to keep our neighborhood a safe one.

Meet Your Neighbor - Megan Sumner

Megan is a recent transplant to the West Plaza, having moved here to her first house just last August. She moved to the KC metro area in 2004 from Westmoreland, KS (near Manhattan), and lived in Olathe, North Kansas City, and downtown. She finally decided to buy a house large enough for her and her bulldog, Samson, but small enough that she didn't spend all of her free time cleaning the house and mowing the lawn. Of course, the West Plaza runneth over with houses that fit that description, so our neighborhood was a perfect fit for her, and it's close to the bus stop where she hitches a ride to work each day!

Megan lives on Fairmount and works as a corporate tax officer at UMB downtown. In her spare time, she plays (a lot of) volleyball, continuing her career that began in college at JCCC. She also enjoys traipsing down to the Plaza or Westport to get together with friends. You also may have seen her around the neighborhood delivering newspapers with 2-year-old Samson. You would recognize them as the responsible pet and pet owner pair: Samson carries his own bags for cleaning up after himself, but Megan helps him out with the actual cleanup (without the opposable thumb, Samson has a difficult time cleaning up by himself).

Megan is enjoying making the transition from small town Kansas to "the Big City," and is happy to meet new neighbors. If you see Megan and Samson out on their rounds, stop and say hello!



2008-2009 Events & Meetings

WPNA general membership meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of odd numbered months at The Point Annex, 915 West 44th Street.

Schedule:

General Meetings: Sept. 16, Nov. 18, Jan. 20, March 17
Fall Cleanup: Saturday, October 11

Free Paint Available for Eligible Kansas City, MO Homeowners

In 2007 the City of Kansas City, Missouri Paint Program provided free paint and supplies to 310 homeowners. The program is available again this year to help homeowners improve their property.

“This program gives eligible homeowners high-quality exterior paint for their homes at no cost,” said Bob Jackson, manager of the Property Preservation Division of the Neighborhood and Community Services Department.

Eligible applicants can receive paint, primer, caulking, and other supplies related to the painting of their home, up to a total cost of \$500. Eligible applicants must meet the following qualifications:

- Reside in Kansas City, MO
- Own and reside in the property to be painted

- Be the owner of only one property
- Meet the following household income guidelines:
 - One person \$38,300
 - Two people \$43,800
 - Three people \$49,250
 - Four people \$54,700
 - Five people \$59,100
 - Six people \$63,500
 - Seven people \$67,850
 - Eight or more people \$72,250

Paint recipients must make all necessary repairs and properly prepare their houses for painting prior to receiving their supplies. After an inspector determines that a house is ready to be painted, a voucher will be awarded to the homeowner that allows him to choose the color of Sherwin-Williams paint he wishes to receive. Paint selection is limited to standard, in-store colors; no color matching will be done.

“Sometimes homeowners need a little help with the upkeep of their property. Through this program, we are able to help people, which helps improve our neighborhoods one house at a time,” Jackson said.

For more information and to obtain an application, visit <http://www.kcmo.org/neigh.nsf/web/dbpaint> or call the Property Preservation Division, 816-513-3025.

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 _____

Business Member Contact Name: _____

I would like to help the neighborhood with:

Picnic Property Maintenance/Zoning

Yard Sale Neighborhood Clean-up

Crime Prevention Newsletter Distribution

Meeting Refreshments Gardening

(September-October 2008 Newsletter)

WPNA Business Members

Please support the businesses that support the WPNA!

<p>ACT II 1417 W. 47th St. 816-531-7572</p> <p>AMERICAN BUDDHIST CENTER 4400 Wyoming 816-210-3378</p> <p>BERGAMOT & IVY, INC. 1713 Westport Road 816-561-5599</p> <p>BOOZEFISH WINE BAR 1511 Westport Road 816-561-5995 www.boozefish.com</p> <p>CATHY'S CLIP & CURL SALON 4301 Wyoming St. 816-561-2331</p> <p>CIRCLE TAX & ACCOUNTING 1721 Westport Road 816-753-1700</p> <p>COUNTRY CLUB FINANCIAL Herman Johansen 4343 Belleview 816-360-8628</p> <p>DAVID ALLEN STATE FARM INSURANCE 1414 W. 47th St. 816-753-4334</p> <p>DESIGNER WIG STUDIO 1105 Westport Road Kansas City, MO 64111 816-444-5644</p> <p>DOGS' WORLD OF FUN 1220 W. 31st St. 816-931-5822 www.dogsworldoffun.com</p> <p>FINAL DRAFT SECRETARIAL SERVICE 4401 Genessee St. 816-931-2276</p>	<p>FITNESS TOGETHER 4448 Belleview 816-841-5129</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 & LAWN CARE 4505 State Line 816-931-3399</p> <p>JUDY KLEMM REMAX PREMIER REALTY 2210 W. 75th St. 913-529-1408 or 913-406-9204</p> <p>KATE'S CANINE RESORT 2823 Main St. 816-753-4188</p> <p>KURT AARONS, DDS 4411 Belleview Ave. 816-531-2070</p> <p>LADNER ASSOCIATES CPA 4808 Belleview Ave. 816- 561-7580</p> <p>MARSH'S SUN FRESH MARKET 4001 Mill St. 816-931-1639</p> <p>MIKE KELLY'S WESTSIDER 1515 Westport Road 816-931-9417</p> <p>MONTANARI FINE ART JEWELERS 4810 Belleview Ave. 816-531-0750 www.montanarijewelers.com</p>	<p>NICK KRIER STATE FARM INSURANCE 4806 Belleview Ave. 816-561-7770</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>PRINT TEKK PRINTING & MAILING 4312 Terrace 816-931-4122</p> <p>SHANNON BASHAM Certified Personal Trainer & CPR Instructor 816-810-3623</p> <p>SHELTON TRAVEL SERVICE 4800 Belleview Ave. 816-753-4888</p> <p>SUNSHINE FLOWERS 4509 Rainbow Blvd. 913-384-5034</p> <p>THE POINT 917 W. 44th St. 816-561-7660</p> <p>VALLEY VIEW BANK 4550 Belleview Ave. 913-381-3311</p> <p>WEST PLAZA HAIR & SPA 4802 Belleview Ave. 816-931-0303</p> <p>WEST PLAZA NAIL SALON 4804 Belleview Ave. 816-931-0303</p>
---	---	---

As always, we are grateful to Print Tekk, our neighborhood printer, for printing our newsletter without charge. Their generosity enables us to provide the newsletter to more than 900 residences in the West Plaza neighborhood.