

WEST PLAZA

Neighborhood Association



Mark Your Calendar ☒

Upcoming General Meeting
Tuesday, January 20, 7-8 p.m.
Board Elections - Guest Speaker
Drawing for \$25 Gift Card to Café &

Remember to come to our new location:
Swinney Dual Language Elementary School
47th & Holly Street

The city is making plans for a major upgrade of our sanitary and storm sewers. Come to the January meeting to hear details about this very important project.

In addition, we will hold elections for 2009 WPNA Officers and Board members. At this time, nominations stand as follows:

President: Joe Montanari
Treasurer: Marlene Toms
Secretary: Ed O'Donnell
Membership: Open

At-Large (5 positions):

Rie Clark Kevin Pinkowski
Craig Cotton Julie Tenenbaum
Brad McCormack John Toms
Allison Pinkowski

Nominations will remain open until the election is held. Please attend the meeting and help select our leadership for the coming year. ■

Membership Renewals Due

It's time to renew your membership for the coming year. Please use the membership form on page 6 to continue to support the projects and activities of the WPNA. To name just a few: the West Plaza Garden, spring and fall clean-ups, annual picnic, bi-monthly newsletters, and informative meetings. If you've never been a member, choose to become one now!

The Key to a Successful Neighborhood: Get Involved!

by Joe Montanari

A successful neighborhood depends on citizen participation and involvement. Being a good neighbor begins at home, right in our own front yards.

I am reminded of the ramshackle house up the street a few years ago, with beer cans in the front yard and the campaign sign urging us to support the "green" candidate. Apparently, the house's youthful occupants thought the environment was somewhere else.

When you see a pothole in the street or the streetlight is burned out, why wait for someone else to take care of it for you? Call 311 (or 816-513-1313), and report it yourself. If you see suspicious persons or activities, don't hesitate. Call 911. The police are eager to help. But they won't show up if no one calls. If you see trash and debris blowing down the street, take a moment to pick it up and dispose of it. Building a better community depends on each of us doing his or her own part, no matter how large or small.

Twice I have served on juries. Both times, what struck me most about the process was the sincere dedication of each of the jurors to get the verdict right. In each case, throughout the deliberation, the jurors considered and debated each fact and did a lot of soul searching to be certain of the accuracy and validity of their conclusions. I went home feeling confident that our jury system works pretty well, and that if I ever had the misfortune to appear before a jury myself, I could be reasonably sure that they would hear my case fairly and to the best of

their ability. But jury duty takes time, and the system won't work if no one is willing to serve.

It is said that, in a democracy, we get the government we deserve. If you don't vote, then why be surprised or disappointed with the results? If no one speaks up or tells them their concerns, how will our elected officials know what we expect of them? We may not like our public school system, yet many parents won't spare the time to serve on the PTA. I remember a school board election a few years back in which our candidate won by only seven votes. One of those votes was mine, one was my wife's, two were cast by the couple we had dinner with the night before the election, plus three more made the seven deciding votes. If anyone thinks their vote doesn't count, I would beg to differ.

So, friends and neighbors, to paraphrase John Kennedy, "Ask not what your neighborhood can do for you..." Get involved. Don't wait for someone else to do things for you. Become an active participant in the neighborhood around you. It costs \$12* a year to be a member of the neighborhood association – one dollar a month. Board positions open up from time to time. The pay is crummy, but the opportunities are abundant to serve your community in a meaningful way. If you wish to take a less visible role, you can volunteer to help at neighborhood functions. Or you can simply show up and participate. As Red Green so aptly puts it, "Remember, we're all in this together..." ■

*\$7 / senior; \$25 / business membership

Safety during the Holidays

Home burglars view the holiday season a little differently than most of us. For them, it is a time of opportunity to burglarize your home for cash, credit cards, gifts of small electronics, computers, jewelry, and other easily sold valuables. Here are a few tips about what they look for when they choose a house to burglarize. These tips will help you enjoy the holidays without incident.

- **Burglars look for an easy entry with good escape routes.** Don't openly display your Christmas tree and gifts in the front window so they're easily visible from the street. It's too tempting for a burglar to smash the window and grab the packages.

West Plaza Neighborhood Association Newsletter
Edited by Julie A. Tenenbaum
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Submit suggestions for newsletter articles or association activities to Julie at her email 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.

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

- **Burglars look for occupancy cues** like outdoor lights burning 24 hours a day, piled up newspapers, or advertising flyers hanging on the door knob. Use an inexpensive light timer to turn lights on and off when you are away, and ask a neighbor to keep the front of your home clear of papers and debris.
- **Burglars know to look for the door key** "hidden" near the front entrance. Don't hide spare keys under rocks, in flowerpots, or above door ledges. Instead, give the spare key to a trusted neighbor.
- **Burglars prefer to enter through unlocked doors or windows.** A problem can occur when exterior Christmas light extension cords are run inside through a window and prevent it from being secured. Hire an electrician or handyman to install an inexpensive exterior outlet for your holiday lights.
- **Don't post your family name on your mailbox or on your house.** A burglar can call directory assistance to get your telephone number and call your home while standing in front of your house to confirm that you are away.
- **Don't leave descriptive telephone answering machine messages** like, "You've reached the Wilsons. We're away skiing for the Christmas holiday. Please leave a message." Burglars love to hear that they have plenty of time to break in and completely ransack your home.

- **After Christmas day, don't pile up empty boxes** from your new computer, DVD player, or stereo receiver on the curb. Burglars appreciate knowing that you have expensive gifts in your house for them to steal. Break the boxes down or cut them up to conceal their former contents. After a lucrative burglary, the chances increase that the thieves will come again to steal the new replacement items.
- Fortify your home by installing solid core doors, heavy duty locks, and longer screws in the lock strike plates and door hinges. Install secondary security devices on all accessible sliding windows.

Use these tips, and have safe holidays. ■

Meet Your Neighbor:

Allison Pinkowski

The subject of this month's column is one of the newest members of the West Plaza neighborhood, Allison Pinkowski (formerly Allison Pierce). Allison lived in Roeland Park until October, when she married West Plaza resident and board member, Kevin Pinkowski. Allison is an account supervisor for Barkley, an advertising agency in the Crossroads district. She has been with the company for five years, and she loves her job.

Born in Dallas, Allison was raised in Atlanta, Georgia, and Lincoln, Nebraska. She attended the University of Kansas, where she received a degree from the School of Journalism. Some of her many activities include knitting (a newly acquired hobby), working in the yard, creating her own greeting cards and journals, and running (half-marathons and marathons in particular). If you've ever participated in the Kansas City Marathon or half-marathon, you've probably heard the bands along the route. As part of the marathon planning committee, Allison was responsible for booking them.

Welcome to the neighborhood, Allison! ■

2008-2009 Events & Meetings

WPNA general membership meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of odd numbered months at Swinney Dual Language School, 47th & Holly.

General Meetings: Jan. 20, Mar. 24 (fourth Tuesday to avoid St. Patrick's Day!), Sept. 15, Nov. 17

Spring Cleanup & Picnic: May (date TBA)

WPNA Garage Sales: July 11 ■

Thanks for the Rocks

Many thanks to a West Plaza friend, Bruce Clippinger, who donated several tons of beautiful flagstones to pave the walkway in our West Plaza Garden. Bruce owns a rural property near Osceola, Missouri, that abounds in handsome reddish sandstone, an ideal material for the walk. He and Joe Montanari have made multiple trips between Osceola and the West Plaza, transporting the rocks to beautify our small garden.

Bruce's generous donation has saved the Garden Fund about \$700, the cost of obtaining materials from local suppliers. Thank you, Bruce! ■

www.westplaza.org is Online!

West Plaza Neighborhood Association's new website is up and running! For up-to-date information about activities, announcements, meeting schedule, newsletters (both current and archive), links to city services, West Plaza history, and more, go to www.westplaza.org. Because the newsletter is published only every other month, we are pleased to offer this more timely method to keep our neighbors informed about neighborhood news. ■

Please Make Use of Bulky Item Pickup!

If you currently have a pile of (a-hem!) junk or a large item in front of your house, please give your neighbors a break – they are tired of looking at it – and call the city to schedule a bulky item pickup.

You can easily schedule an appointment by calling the 311 Action Center, a division of the City Manager's Office, at 311 or 816-513-1313.

See last month's newsletter for a listing of items that are considered "bulky," or go to www.kcmo.org/trash for a complete listing of the City's rules on bulky item collection and information about regular trash, recycling, and solid waste collection.

Your neighbors thank you. ■

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Living Well in the Space You Have

One of the most common resolutions made for the new year is to – finally! – get organized. One of our WPNA members, Mary Ellen Vincent, is a professional organizer. She offers the following advice for making the most of the space in your house.

For many people, the logical solution to closets that are bursting and countertops heaped with papers is to buy more containers or add more storage space to their homes. However, the size of the average American home has doubled since the 1950s without solving the clutter problems that many people encounter. Recently I heard a friend say that her new, larger home has actually contributed to the clutter problem by allowing her to store more things than she could in her smaller home. She feels more disorganized now than ever!

So when you notice a clutter problem developing (overflowing closet, piles of papers on the counter, can't find what you need) instead of considering more storage or a larger home, follow these simple steps to take back control of the space you own:

👉 **Decide what belongs in the space.** Sort the items that are currently stored inside, on top of, and around the space. What naturally seems to accumulate there is what you must make room for. Anything that isn't used on a regular basis (weekly) can probably be stored elsewhere. After you have sorted the items into categories, assign the category a "home"; that is, a drawer, cabinet, shelf, or container, that the items will return to each time they are used. Be sure to explain the system to everyone who will use the space. Labels are a great idea for training purposes.

👉 **Consider what products or changes** would help to maintain the space. Would clear storage boxes with lids and labels help to contain medicine or personal care products? How about assigning family members their own drawer in an entertainment cabinet for their music, headphones, and movies, or a shelf in the linen closet for their hair products, lotion, and grooming supplies? Remember that large, light, bulky things can be stored high. Heavy items can be stored either at shoulder height, low and on wheels, or in containers with handles. Store

items that are used most frequently in the most accessible places.

👉 **Plan when you will clean and purge** the space again. There is no garden without a gardener, and no organization without an organizer. Some spaces need regular attention, and some can wait until you see the telltale signs that clutter has returned. Finally, your storage needs change over time, so it's good to assess your use of space on an ongoing basis.

Mary Ellen of OrganizeME is available for clutter consultations. Call her at 816-529-6901.

The Origins of Kansas City, MO

Kansas City traces its beginnings to 1821, the year Missouri was admitted to the Union. In that year a Frenchman from St. Louis, Francois Chouteau, came up the Missouri River and established a trading post on the waterway about three miles below the great bend in the river, now the Northeast Industrial District. After being flooded out in 1826, he rebuilt on higher ground at the foot of what is now Troost Avenue. Chouteau and several other French families who joined him constituted the first non-Indian settlement in Kansas City.

Another enterprising young man, John Calvin McCoy, likewise was interested in selling and trading, but he opened his store inland on the Santa Fe Trail, about four miles south of Chouteau's trading post. McCoy filed a plat on his land in 1833, and because he considered it a portal to the West, named it Westport.

McCoy also found a rock ledge on the south shore of the Missouri River that formed a natural landing for river boats. Until that time, Independence, MO, had been the best spot for transferring supplies from the river route to the land routes westward. The water route was faster and easier than shipping by land, and McCoy reasoned that if supplies could be floated to his landing – about 22 miles farther west than Independence – even the four-mile trip overland to Westport would cut the land haul by 18 miles.

The idea worked, and by 1845 Westport had replaced Independence as a source of supplies and point of departure for wagons headed west.

Excerpted from A History of Kansas City, MO at www.KCMO.org

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 INS 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>EDDIE DELAHUNT'S CAFÉ &* 45th & Bell Streets 816-753-3322</p> <p>FINAL DRAFT SECRETARIAL SERV 4401 Genessee St. 816-931-2276 www.Finaldraftsecretarialservice.com</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>LOTUS SKIN CARE STUDIO* 4300 Bell St. Ste. 204 816-561-0555 Rachel@lotusskin.com</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>STEVEN C. MINGOS & ASSOCIATES* 4746 Belleview Ave. 816-531-8740 www.drmingos.com</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 CO 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>SADER LAW FIRM* 4739 Belleview Ave., Ste. 300 www.saderlawfirm.com</p> <p>SWAYKIN DOULA SERVICES* 913-486-0550 www.swaykindoula.com</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 NAIL SALON & SPA 4804 Belleview Ave. 816-931-0303</p> <p>YOGA FIX STUDIO* 2000 Shawnee Mission Parkway 913-384-3200 Hotyogakc.com</p> <p>YOUR BUSINESS NAME HERE!</p>
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* New member this month

A \$25 business membership includes your name, address, and contact information in each WPNA newsletter.

West Plaza Neighborhood Association 2008 Financials		
EXPENDITURES	ACTUAL 2007	ACTUAL 2008
Association Operations		
Post office box rental	62.00	56.00
Annual report to Secretary of State	15.00	20.00
General insurance	312.00	306.00
	\$ 389.00	\$ 382.00
General Membership Meetings		
Beverages	31.06	8.40
Door prizes	75.00	101.06
	\$ 106.06	\$ 109.46
Clean Sweep		
KCMO dumpsters	200.00	200.00
Drinks		4.20
	\$ 200.00	\$ 204.20
Picnic		
Food from Marsh's	71.36	48.98
Music	100.00	
Piñata	96.92	52.58
	\$ 268.28	\$ 101.56
Yard Sale		
Kansas City Star ad	45.95	-
	\$45.95	-
Recognition		
Gift cards	-	-
Volunteer brunch	225.60	184.08
Recognition awards	393.00	90.00
	\$618.60	\$ 274.08
Office Expenses		
Envelopes	-	-
Phone calling minutes	39.00	50.00
Returned checks	14.50	
File box		14.99
Miscellaneous		16.78
	\$ 53.50	\$ 81.77
Newsletters		
Postage	306.46	398.39
Formatting	91.00	
Labels		11.00
	\$ 397.46	\$ 409.39
Miscellaneous Expenses		
Hanging Banners	1,750.00	
Sponsor Dance in the Park	100.00	100.00
Other postage	78.00	11.89
Postcards	36.00	
Paint & Supplies for WPNA signs	72.35	
Donations		100.00
West Plaza Garden		559.18
	\$ 2,036.35	\$ 771.07
	\$ 4,115.20	\$ 2,333.53
EXPENDITURE TOTALS		
INCOME		
Membership dues	1,462.00	2,125.00
Donations	507.00	1,142.00
Newsletter ads	105.00	35.00
Garden fund		690.00
Banner hanging	240.00	
Investment interest	141.75	49.34
	\$ 2,455.75	\$ 4,041.34
	\$ 2,455.75	\$ 4,041.34
NET INCOME OR (LOSS)		
Assets		
Checking Account	12/31/07	12/18/08
Money Market	629.83	2,288.30
	7,141.75	7,191.09
	\$ 7,771.58	\$ 9,479.39

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Happy New Year! Happy New Year! Happy New Year!

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Happy New Year! Happy New Year! Happy New Year!



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 _____

I would like to help the neighborhood with:

Address _____

Picnic Property Maintenance/Zoning

Zip _____ Phone _____

Yard Sale Neighborhood Clean-up

e-mail _____

Crime Prevention Meeting Refreshments

Business Member Contact Name: _____

Newsletter Distribution Gardening

[January-February 2009 Newsletter]