

WEST PLAZA

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



Mark Your Calendar ☒

Upcoming General Meeting

Tuesday, September 15, 7-8 p.m.

Swinney Dual Language Elementary School

1106 West 47th Street

Guest Speaker: Jimmi Lossing

Drawing for \$25 Gift Card

Big changes are in store for Westwood Park in the coming year. Our guest speaker this month will be Jimmi Lossing of the Parks and Recreation Department, who will tell us about what's planned.

In addition, we will be asking for input about topics and programs that members would like to learn about at future general meetings.

Please come to the meeting with your questions, concerns, and ideas. See you there. ■

West Plaza Block Parties to Promote Safety and Security

by Kevin Pinkowski

While the crime level in our neighborhood certainly is not high by most standards, it is still a definite presence, and I think we can all agree that it's not welcome. Officer Jim Schriever, master patrol officer and police liaison for our neighborhood, has stated that one of the best ways to protect yourself is to get to know your neighbors. We couldn't agree more, because neighbors who know and are comfortable with each other will generally watch out for each other. To that end, one of the best ways to get to know your neighbors is to host a block party.

Several block parties are being planned for mid-September, primarily the weekend of September 19th. While these are not WPNA events, we

wholeheartedly encourage them. The ones that have been planned are around 45th and 47th Streets, and Genessee and Terrace. If you are interested in planning your own block party for that same weekend, please contact Rachel Francis (816-225-7848) to coordinate, or go to <http://www.kcmo.org/pubworks.nsf/web/blockpartytips> for the permit application and procedures (you can also go to the city website, www.kcmo.org, and search for "block party"). You should know that you will need to submit your block party application at least 7 days in advance (the earlier the better), so be bold and act quickly. If there is no block party for your street, feel free to mosey from one to the next, and get to know your neighbors!

Please refer to the WPNA website for updates on plans (www.westplaza.org). ■

KCPD Roll Call

by Kevin Pinkowski

The Kansas City, MO Police Department has started a program in which they host their "roll call," the start of a police shift, in the neighborhoods they will be protecting. This is simply an opportunity for the officers and residents to mingle, get to know each other, and form a tight-knit, unified effort to keep our neighborhood safe and secure.

We thought this was a great idea, and have decided to host one in the West Plaza neighborhood. While the date and location are not yet confirmed, we are planning on the week of September 13-19, and the roll call may be held in conjunction with the block parties planned for the neighborhood, or in the pavilion at Westwood Park. Please check back to our website (www.westplaza.org) for information updates. ■

WPNA Garden News: So Where are the Butterflies?

by Ed O'Donnell (Gardener-in-Chief)

Remember the rabbit that I alluded to in my last article? I'll get back to the cottontail in just a minute, but first I would like to discuss bees, birds, butterflies, and the purpose of the garden. As you may have seen, there are lots of things in bloom at the West Plaza Garden (located in the triangle intersection of Roanoke, Jarboe, and 46th Street). And if you are allergic to bee stings, you should view them from a comfortable distance, because there are a lot of bees. I have been amazed by the wide variety the space attracts. Sharon Pendleton had a close call with one while she was deadheading some flowers, but she didn't get stung. So far I have seen only one goldfinch at the sunflowers, but I'm sure I'll see more, as the seeds are just now starting to ripen. The butterflies are another story.

In a recent issue of the *Kansas City Star* I read that the cool weather we enjoyed earlier this year has led to fewer butterflies now because it left "the caterpillar and butterflies more susceptible to disease." So no wonder I have noticed only one monarch, a cabbage butterfly, and a viceroy. Though the garden supplies them with both adult and larval food and plenty of basking stones, their numbers are simply down over much of the country. The situation could still improve, as butterflies are more resilient than most people realize.

One of the things I like about working in the garden is the opportunity to meet neighbors who are either interested in the garden or gardening. The most frequent question is, "Who is doing this?" Joe Montanari or I introduce them to the WPNA and explain that it's a beautification project. One fellow asked if we were growing any herbs. Yes, we are: parsley and fennel, and who knows what next year. Another man told me his wife was glad we had planted sunflowers, since they are one of her favorites.

One evening a young woman asked, "So what's this for? Native landscaping? Wildlife habitat? Or just looks?" I had to stop and think. When I first started the project, I wanted a large percentage of the plants to be native because so many

indigenous plants are drought tolerant. But as the design progressed, I wanted to attract more butterflies and provide more flash in a short amount of time, which led to annuals and more non-native plants. So I said, "It's for looks." It later dawned on me that the wide diversity is actually a good reflection of our neighborhood. We are a diverse bunch of people, aren't we?

In other news ... we have been talking about placing a West Plaza sign in the garden to let passers-by know who's responsible for this beautiful spot. Due to Joe Montanari's success in building the walkway and his enthusiasm for signage, he has been delegated the task. He has accepted the challenge and speculates that completion will be Fall 2010. The Parks and Recreation department has been notified of the request for this addition, and a Parks employee will be working with us.

Back to the bunny. I have not seen any more rabbit damage. In late July I did see the critter when I scared him out of the south juniper bushes. He scampered to the northern ones. I have not seen him since. Who knows? Perhaps he has scampered to someone else's garden and is calling it home.

One last thing: On Saturday morning, October 3, we will meet at 10 o'clock to clean up the garden for Fall and do a little bit of planting. If you'd like to get your hands in the dirt, please join us! Questions? Call me at 816-531-4144. ■

Dance in the Park – September 12

The 11th annual Dance in the Park will be presented on Saturday, September 12, 2009 in the tranquil setting of Roanoke Park. Dance in the Park showcases the exciting performances of a host of the Kansas City region's unique dance companies. This free event invites neighbors to gather and build a sense of community. The event starts at 6:30 p.m. with a free dance class, during which audience members of all ages are invited onstage for a lesson with professional dancers. The show starts at 7:00 p.m. Bring a blanket, lawn chairs, a picnic, and the family! ■

Newsletter layout is provided compliments of Final Draft Secretarial Service. Printing is provided by Print Tekk Printing and Mailing. Both are West Plaza neighborhood businesses.

The Battle of Westport

by Joe Montanari

Our teachers used to tell us that most of the important events of the Civil War occurred east of the Mississippi River, and that nothing of any real consequence happened around here. The Battle of Westport was merely a “skirmish,” so they said. According to the histories written by scholars and historians in the east, the teachers were right. But it may surprise you to learn that the Battle of Westport was not only a major battle, but it also had a significant impact on the outcome of the war. On Saturday and Sunday, October 23 and 24, 1864, south and west of the town of Westport, events occurred right here in our West Plaza neighborhood that changed our country forever.

The story goes that Confederate General Sterling Price and his Army of Missouri, some 12,000 strong, were roaming around the state, looking for a suitable place to attack. Price knew that if he could score a significant victory in Missouri, it would boost the sagging morale of the South, allowing him to recruit more volunteers to fill the dwindling ranks of the Confederate army. Missouri’s government was pro-Union, but its rural population had strong Southern roots.

Price’s cavalry probed St. Louis, but it was too well defended. They made a feint toward Jefferson City, but it too was well fortified. Finally, Price settled on Westport, a thriving commercial hub on the western frontier. In a bold and sudden thrust, the Confederate cavalry, led by Brigadier General John S. Marmaduke, attacked Union defensive positions along the Blue River, just north of 63rd Street, at a spot called Byram’s Ford. Under a heavy artillery barrage, followed by a fierce fusillade of rifle fire, Marmaduke’s cavalymen forded the river, driving the Union troops back, almost to the streets of Westport. They were followed by Confederate infantry under Major General James F. Fagan and General Jo Shelby,

along with their entire supply train, consisting of 500 wagons and 5,000 head of cattle.

Confederate soldiers had nearly reached Westport when a fresh Union brigade under Col. Charles W. Blair showed up, forcing the weary Confederates back south. Meanwhile, Union Major General Alfred Pleasanton’s cavalry was closing in on them from the rear. Deciding to mount a second assault on Westport the next day, Shelby and Fagan formed a new line from what is now Forest Hills Cemetery, at 69th and Troost, all the way west to what is now Loose Park. At least six Confederate artillery batteries occupied the high ridge along what is now 51st Street, aiming the guns across Brush Creek.

The Union command headquarters was located in the Harris House Hotel, a three-story brick building at the northeast corner of Westport Road and Pennsylvania, directly across the street from where Kelly’s tavern is located now. From the roof of the hotel, Union General Samuel Curtis and his command staff could hear the reports of the Confederate guns across the creek, and they could see the puffs of smoke through their field glasses. They knew that, even though their Union troops outnumbered the Confederates three to one, the battle that had erupted in the Brush Creek valley that Sunday morning was getting bloodier and costlier every minute. The swampy creek bed was thickly wooded and covered with dense underbrush (it isn’t called Brush Creek for nothing). Except for a small open field, the fighting was hand to hand, tree to tree, all under a withering barrage of artillery and rifle fire from the ridge above. The Union generals were puzzled. How could they take the ridge?

To be continued in the next issue...

Sources: "Retracing the Civil War Battle of Westport" by Karon Tripp; "The Battle of Westport, Oct. 21-23, 1864," by Fred L. Lee; *Jackson County Pioneers*, by Pearl Wilcox; and Wikipedia. ■

Who's New in the WPNA?

The West Plaza Neighborhood Association is made up of residents and businesses who support our goal of improving the quality of life in our neighborhood. At the very nominal annual cost of \$12 per household, \$7 per senior, and \$25 per business, we welcome all who wish to join us in our efforts. In 2009, 25 households and 12 businesses have become new members. The new business members are:

Fran Peek Ryan, Ph.D.
Kathe Kaul Estate Sales
Kurt's Design
Lotus Skin Care
Martha Childers, Arbonne Consultant
Precision Optics
Pryde's Old Westport
Sader Law Firm
Steven C. Mingos, DDS & Associates
Swaykin Doula Services
Thomas Restaurant
Yoga Fix Studio

We thank all of our business members for their support. Many have been part of this organization for years – even decades. We encourage residents to support the businesses that support the neighborhood. For a full listing of business members with their contact information, see the last page of the newsletter.

We appreciate the support of all our members, residents and businesses, new and renewing. The more members we have, the more we can do for the neighborhood and the bigger voice we have when we express an opinion at the city level. You can help us grow by letting your neighbors know the many ways we work for the neighborhood and encouraging them to join us. As always, there is a membership application in this newsletter. ■

Fall Cleanup "Dumpster" Event Saturday

October 10, 2009

**West side of Westwood Park
West Plaza Residents Only**

See website for details:

www.westplaza.org

4th of July in Westwood Park

Thanks to the WPNA Board of Directors and the Westwood Homes Association, extra security coverage to prevent illegal fireworks activity was provided in Westwood Park on July 4th. During the evening hours, off-duty KCPD police officers in marked vehicles patrolled the park. It was a good start toward maintaining a quiet holiday.

The hiring of off-duty officers to patrol the park was in response to numerous complaints by West Plaza residents who live nearby and who had been extremely upset by the fireworks in previous years. This was the first extra coverage of this illegal activity by the KCPD in several years, and we plan on continuing the extra patrol next year. ■

"The Best Dip in the World" aka BLT Dip

by Annie McCormack



As summer BBQs turn into Fall football weekends, I'm always looking for quick, easy and tasty recipes for everyone to enjoy. This BLT dip, given to me by a friend, has quickly developed a reputation as "the best dip in the world." And any appliance you will need to make it can be found at WPNA Business Member Pryde's Old Westport.

Ingredients: 2 cups Mayo, 2 cups sour cream, 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese, 2 tablespoons ranch dressing mix (dried seasoning packets), ¼ cup chopped green onion, 1 container of baby tomatoes, 1 lb. bacon

Directions: Pre-heat the oven to 400 degrees. Fry up the bacon; after it is crispy and cool, crumble into bacon bits. In mixing bowl, combine mayo, sour cream, cheddar cheese, ranch dressing mix, green onion, and bacon. Refrigerate. Slice tomatoes and add to mixing bowl just before serving so that they do not get soggy. After mixing, top with green onion, shredded cheese, and tomato for color. ■

Meet Your Neighbor: The Nugent Family

by Kevin Pinkowski

Meet the Nugent family – Matt, Rachel, and Althea. The Nugents moved to the 4500 block of Terrace in the West Plaza from Somerville, Massachusetts in June 2007. They had been studying at the Boston Architectural Center (care to guess their professions?). Though Rachel is from New Jersey, they decided to move back to Kansas City to be closer to Matt's family (he grew up in Brookside). After looking around the city for the right neighborhood, they liked the West Plaza because of – get this – the familiar feel of the East Coast neighborhoods they had previously lived in! The small, closely spaced houses with small yards simply felt like home to them. Their daughter, Althea, came along in April of this year, and they are thoroughly enjoying being parents.

Rachel is a historic preservation consultant for Rosin Preservation. She deals with historic districts, tax credits, and buildings that are on, or striving for, the national historic register. She has also started a small business of her own doing historic research for residences. If you've always wondered about the history of your house, for a small fee, Rachel will scour the records downtown to get as much information about it as possible. If you're interested, just drop a note in their mailbox at 4507 Terrace.

Matt is a currently unemployed architect who was most recently with BNIM Architects in KCMO. Matt also moonlights as the unofficial webmaster of the WPNA. He's done a fantastic job so far with our website (www.westplaza.org) – thanks for volunteering to take that on! In the meantime, he enjoys keeping up the house and yard.

In their spare time, the Nugents like to spend time at Loose Park and the Nelson Atkins Museum, walking through the neighborhood (they'll be the ones with the really cool new stroller admiring the surrounding architecture, mouths agape), and working in the garden or on their house. They purchased their house from fellow architects Sean and Amy Slattery, who

had already done most of the major work; however, Matt and Rachel renovated the airplane loft last year, and they now have four bedrooms.

If you see the Nugents wandering the neighborhood, or on their hands and knees in the yard, stop by, say hello, and welcome them to the West Plaza. ■

Random Acts of Kindness

by Craig Cotton

A woman who lives on Genessee takes a plastic bag with her on her daily morning walk and picks up litter as she goes.

Another early morning walker places newspapers on his neighbors' porches, just to make their lives a little easier.

Last winter a person with a snow blower was kind enough to clear off the sidewalk for two blocks...and it wasn't even near his home.

Last month one of our board members noticed that low hanging sycamore tree limbs made walking on the sidewalk near the park difficult. Back home, he found his lopping shears, walked back, and in short order the limbs were down and in a dumpster.

I am in awe of the handful of people who work the garden at 46th and Roanoke. This is *real* work, and they just dive into it for the common good.

My wife says these folks are more than good neighbors. They are citizens. They make things a little better wherever they go, without expectation of acknowledgement or reward.

If you know of any similar generous acts selflessly given, please tell me, and I will pass them along. Call 816-753-4187 or email craigclothes@kc.rr.com. ■

Want to hear about a particular topic at a general meeting? Let us know!

Call Julie Tenenbaum at 816-931-2276 or email her at jatkc@aol.com

News from Swinney Dual Language School

by Rie Clark, Principal

Swinney is bursting with news! We have enrolled a total of 451 children in grades pre-K through eight, adding over 100 students since last year. We are excited about our first pre-K class beginning their journey in the dual language program.

As you may have noticed, we are putting the finishing touches on the Swinney facility. Our front windows have been repaired and are now free of cracks. Our back steps and the steps leading to the playground have been repaired. Our lawn has been mowed. Our floors have been waxed and polished so thoroughly that they could double as mirrors. Our furniture and text books have been delivered. We held Operation Clean Sweep on Wednesday August 5th and Saturday August 8th, in which staff and members of All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church helped clean out and clean up various areas of the building. We do all this to make Swinney the safest and best place for the children and their families.

Courtesy of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Swinney students will be the fortunate recipients of a new reading series entitled *Story Town/Villa Cuentos*. This series focuses on reading in both Spanish and English, fitting in perfectly with our dual language program. Swinney was chosen to pilot this program by the publisher. We are extremely grateful and excited about sharing this with our students.

School will begin on August 24th, so the yellow buses will again be seen in the neighborhood. Last year we had 11 buses, and with our number increase, a few more will be added. We try very hard to honor the sanctity of the neighborhood. Even though the buses are inconvenient to drivers and traffic at times, please know that each one of those buses is charged with bringing precious individuals safely to and from school. Thanks in advance for your patience.

School Needs:

Navy blue shirts, khaki pants, school supplies, copy paper, stove, dishwasher, items for the Swinney Boutique (fun items and small trinkets for children), Youth Friend volunteers. ■

Spay and Neuter Clinic

The Spay and Neuter Kansas City nonprofit organization has opened a new clinic at 1116 East 59th Street, at the corner of 59th and Troost. They partnered with the City of Kansas City, which refurbished the city-owned building. Free and low-cost spay and neuter services are provided to pet owners who qualify. They will also offer low-cost pet vaccinations and be a community resource for pet food, dog houses, and hay. Their efforts will help prevent pet overpopulation.

For more information, call 816-531-0687. ■

Beware of ATM Skimming

The Fraud Unit has received information that skimmers have been used at some ATM machines in the Kansas City area. Skimmers are small devices placed directly on top of an ATM's card reading device that are designed to copy information on the back of credit/debit cards when card holders conduct financial transactions at the ATM. The skimmers are removed later to extract the fraudulently obtained financial information. Anyone who discovers this type of device on an ATM is encouraged to notify the police department immediately.

**The West Plaza Police Liaison is
Master Patrol Officer James Schriever.
He can be reached
at James.Schriever@kcpd.org
or 816-719-8350.**



1815 West 39th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111
816-561-3663

**20% Neighborhood Discount
with Coupon (Food Only)**



Dr. Steven C. Mingos & Associates, L.L.C.

General Dentistry
4746 Belleview Avenue
Kansas City, Missouri 64112

www.drmingos.com

"Your Neighborhood Dentist"

New Patient Exam and Cleaning

Includes Digital X-rays

\$79.00

Call and make an appointment today!
Ask about our referral program

(816) 531-8740

Offer ends October 31, 2009

West Plaza Neighborhood Association Newsletter
Edited by Julie A. Tenenbaum
Address: 4401 Genessee, KC, MO 64111-4359
Phone: 816-931-2276 email: jatkc@aol.com

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

Fran Peek Ryan, Ph.D.

Licensed Psychologist (Missouri)

4804 Terrace Street (816) 444-1822
Kansas City, MO 64112 Fax (816) 931-9706
Email: drfranryan@yahoo.com Cell (816) 304-5085

- In-home sessions (Missouri only)
- Workplace sessions (Missouri only)
- Telephone sessions

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 ▪ www.westplaza.org

Check One: New [] Renewal []

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

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 [] Meeting Refreshments []

Newsletter Distribution [] Gardening []

[September-October 2009 Newsletter]

WPNA Business Members

A \$25 Business Membership includes your name and contact information in each WPNA newsletter.

<p>ACT II 1417 W. 47th St. 816-531-7572</p> <p>AMERICAN BUDDHIST CENTER 4400 Wyoming 816-210-3378</p> <p>ARBONNE INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANT 4730 Terrace 816-561-4146 marthachilders@hotmail.com</p> <p>BERGAMOT & IVY, INC. 1713 Westport Road 816-561-5599</p> <p>BOOZEFISH WINE BAR 1511 Westport Road 816-561-5995 www.boozeefish.com</p> <p>CATHY'S CLIP & CURL SALON 4301 Wyoming St. 816-561-2331</p> <p>DANIE DUNN INTERIOR DESIGN 1801 Westport Road 816-561-7771</p> <p>DAVID ALLEN STATE FARM INS. 1414 W. 47th St. 816-753-4334</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 SERVICE 4401 Genessee St. 816-931-2276 www.Finaldraftsecretarialservice.com</p>	<p>FRAN PEEK RYAN, Ph.D. 4804 Terrace 816-444-1822</p> <p>HAIR STYLE 4500 Bell St. 816-531-4545</p> <p>JENNINGS TREE & LAWN CARE 4505 State Line 816-931-3399</p> <p>KATE'S CANINE RESORT 2823 Main St. 816-753-4188</p> <p>KATHE KAUL ESTATE SALES 816-960-1947 kathe@kaul.cc</p> <p>KURT AARONS, DDS 4411 Belleview Ave. 816-531-2070</p> <p>KURT'S DESIGN 1517 Westport Rd. 816-561-6044</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 SUNFRESH MARKET 4001 Mill St. 816-931-1639</p> <p>STEVEN C. MINGOS DDS & ASSOC 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>ORGANIZE ME 816-529-6901</p> <p>PATHWAY DEVELOPMENT CO, LLC 4600 Madison 816-960-5255</p> <p>PRECISION OPTICS 4181 Broadway 816-756-3577</p> <p>PRINT TEKK PRINTING & MAILING 4312 Terrace 816-931-4122</p> <p>PRYDE'S OLD WESTPORT 115 Westport Road 816-531-5588</p> <p>SADER LAW FIRM 4739 Belleview Ave., Ste. 300 www.saderlawfirm.com</p> <p>SHANNON BASHAM Certified Personal Trainer & CPR Instructor 816-810-3623</p> <p>SUNSHINE FLOWERS 4509 Rainbow Blvd. 913-384-5034</p> <p>SWAYKIN DOULA SERVICES 913-486-0550 www.swaykindoula.com</p> <p>WEST PLAZA NAILS SALON & SPA 4804 Belleview 816-931-0303</p> <p>THOMAS RESTAURANT 1815 West 39th Street 816-561-3663</p> <p>YOGA FIX STUDIO 2000 Shawnee Mission Parkway 913-384-3200 Hotyogakc.com</p>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Please support the businesses that support your neighborhood!

For up-to-date information
about neighborhood activities
or to contact us, visit our website:
www.westplaza.org