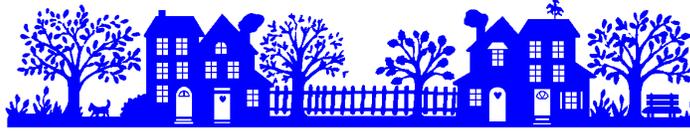


WEST PLAZA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



Mark Your Calendar

Upcoming General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, March 15, 2011, 7-8 p.m.

Immanuel Lutheran Church

1700 Westport Road

TOPIC: A Discussion about the Earnings Tax with Jan Marcason, Jim Schriever, Deputy Chief Cy Ritter, and a

Representative from City Manager's Office

Whether or not to continue the Kansas City 1 percent earnings tax is on the ballot this April. As a service to the neighborhood and the public, the WPNA has invited a panel of speakers to discuss the issue. Please come hear what they have to tell us, and bring your own opinion as well.

There will be a drawing at the end of the evening for a \$25 gift certificate. ■

Westport Road Traffic Study

by Matt Nugent

Do you think the intersection of Westport Road and Southwest Trafficway is a mess? You're not alone. Last fall Kansas City began soliciting local businesses and neighborhood groups - including the West Plaza Neighborhood Association - for input about how to make the intersection better. Although the planning process is far from complete, the group conducting the study (led by HDR Engineering) was kind enough to provide us with an update on how the community feedback has helped them set priorities for the project. The study group has set a list of about 15 priorities.

By far the biggest complaint about the intersection has been traffic flow and congestion. In short, there are too many cars going too many directions, too quickly. Several solutions have

been proposed by neighborhood groups and businesses, including the construction of a roundabout, providing an alternative route to and from St. Luke's Hospital, street widening, and the creation of dedicated turning lanes. Interestingly, second priority was given to historical issues in the area, specifically the preservation of Westport Road. Westport Road was identified by many as a gateway to the west, and a solution that involved relocating part of it should be avoided. Several groups also noted that the current historical markers in the area were insufficient or difficult to find, and they would like to see this changed in the final design of the intersection. The covered wagon, however, should stay.

The walkability of the intersection and access to local businesses are also major concerns. The current configuration of the intersection is unfriendly to pedestrians, and changing that would allow local residents greater access to the shops and businesses there. Better walkability would also allow for a better connection between the neighborhoods along Westport Road and Southwest Trafficway. In their current form, the roads tend to isolate West Plaza, Volker, and Plaza-Westport from one another.

The West Plaza Neighborhood Association is an active participant in this planning process. If you have an idea that you think would improve the Westport Road/Southwest Trafficway intersection, email us at wpnakc@gmail.com ■



Spring is just around the corner. Well, maybe around a couple of corners. Nevertheless, put this date on your calendar: Saturday, May 14. That's the date of the Spring Cleanup and the WPNA picnic. Make plans to be there!

Meet Your Neighbors:

Joel & Rachel Francis

The presidential election results trickled from the radio as boxes poured into a duplex on Fairmount Avenue. It was the first Tuesday in November 2004, and Joel Francis had become the newest resident of the West Plaza neighborhood. Joel grew up in Independence, Missouri, and moved to the Plaza to be closer to his work and near his church. The movie theater, restaurants, and shopping just a 10-minute walk away added to the attraction. In fact, walking around the Plaza quickly became a nightly routine.

Eighteen months later, Rachel Beckett moved into an apartment south of the river to be near her boyfriend, Joel. When the house on the corner of 46th Street and Fairmount, almost directly across the street from the duplex, became available, the couple entered into negotiations to buy the house. In October 2006, Joel and Rachel were married in Roanoke Park. They frequently could be found holding hands, walking around the neighborhood and among the Plaza shops.

Their newlywed bliss was shattered, however, in March 2007 when a burglar broke into their home. Fortunately, a vigilant mailman followed the robber and led the police to his safe house just across State Line, but Joel and Rachel's perception of their community was changed.

The two channeled their anxieties into building community. They held bi-annual block parties so people in the neighborhood could meet and get to know each other. This led to a system of email and phone lists by which neighbors could let each other know when they'd be out of town and when they'd seen anything suspicious. Now each house on the block has at least 30 pairs of eyes on it at all times, bringing greater peace of mind to everyone.

In the winter of 2010 Rachel decided she wanted to give back to the community that had given her so much and announced her intention to run for the WPNA board of directors. She was elected Secretary in early 2011.

Joel is a writer and editor. Rachel works with youth who are runaway, homeless, or in crisis through Synergy Services, Inc. ■

Editor's Note: Rachel has already shown her enthusiasm and ability to make things happen. We welcome her to the board!

Safety Tips from Jim Schriever, KCPD: Do Your Part

Recently I received an email from a community partner about the frequent car break-ins that were occurring in their corridor. Many police manpower hours had been dedicated to addressing the issue, and the officers at Central Patrol had made numerous arrests and received confessions, but the crimes still continued.

I went to the neighborhood, and within 30 seconds, I found the following:

- a car with the GPS attached to a window
- a car with a purse in plain view on the passenger seat
- a car with a camera bag on the passenger seat
- two cars with significant change in plain view on the console
- a vehicle with two smart phones on the console and a satellite radio in plain view
- a vehicle that had mail with the owner's name and address in plain view.

I spoke with the owner of one of the vehicles, who stated they relied on the vehicle's factory anti-theft system to prevent theft. What they did not realize is these types of factory systems will not activate unless the car door is opened. The criminals are aware of this, so they break the window and lean into vehicle, never opening the door.

Community Partners, this is a situation that the police cannot arrest ourselves out of. Our community needs to do better...and I know our community can do better.

This category of crime can be reduced by 90%, but we need your assistance. I have said it before, and I will say it again. Do not leave items in your car. By doing so, you are presenting a temptation and an invitation to thieves. ■

Palm Sunday Blessing

Some of the neighborhood churches will have a joint blessing of the palms on Palm Sunday, April 17, at 10:15 a.m. in the Guardian Angels parking lot. All are welcome to attend. ■

Looking Back:

The Kansas City Orphan Boys' Home

by Joe Montanari

The Conestoga wagon at the entrance to the Westport Shopping Center is an iconic image that resonates with many of us in midtown. But that familiar symbol wasn't always there, nor was the shopping center. The ground on which it rests had an interesting history long before the Old Westport Shopping Center was built in 1963.

In the mid-1800s, with hundreds of pioneers arriving weekly by riverboat, there was serious money to be made supplying wagons and harness, horses, oxen, and every manner of provision for the arduous journey. James Gillespie Hamilton (1816-1869) arrived in Westport by riverboat from Callaway County, Missouri, in 1843. Ambitious and energetic, Hamilton soon formed a business partnership with Daniel Boone's grandson and Westport businessman, Albert Gallatin Boone, who operated a trading post at Westport Road and Pennsylvania in the building now known as Kelly's Westport Inn.

Only a year after his arrival, Hamilton married Cornelia Bernard, daughter of Boone's partner, Thomas Bernard, and they built a home at 557 Westport Road in 1847. Ten years later, the Hamiltons built an impressive two-story home at Westport Road and Belleview, where the shopping center stands today. (An interesting note: The money they used to build the home may have been profits from a cattle drive in which Hamilton and his cowboys drove 1,000 head of beef to California that same year. Miraculously, 741 head survived the journey of nearly 1,800 miles.) A hand-drawn 1857 map of the "town of West Port" shows a tiny sketch of the stately Hamilton home. Hamilton died at the ripe old age of 53 in 1869.

By the mid 1890s, Westport's glory days were over, and it was little more than a suburb of a much larger Kansas City. Five prominent Kansas City women - Mary L. Keith, Agnes M. Johnson, Katie F. McGowen, Elizabeth Tiernan, and Emma Long - purchased the Hamilton property and turned it into an orphanage for boys. The home opened in 1896, housing 25 boys ages 5 to 15, under the care of three Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul.

In 1899, a large west wing was added, a gift of John Perry, who had amassed a considerable fortune as owner of Keith & Perry Coal Company. Perry's wife and children had drowned in the sinking of a French ocean liner, *La Bourgogne*, in July of 1898. Because the boys' home had been one of Mrs. Perry's favorite charities, the new Perry Memorial Home for Boys was a fitting tribute to her and the children. The new facilities, completed in 1905, included modern steam-heated dormitories, a dining room, and a well stocked kitchen. The grounds were filled with playground equipment, two basketball courts, and a baseball diamond.

The curriculum consisted primarily of manual arts until 1913, when the Kansas City Board of Education began providing teachers and books for the children, now numbering 97, providing them a complete elementary school education through seventh grade.

Renamed the Kansas City Orphan Boys' Home, the orphanage continued to be run by the Sisters of Charity until 1961, when the Catholic Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph sold the grounds to an investor, A. P. Nichols, who developed the "Old Westport Shopping Center" (identified on the architects' drawing as "Old Westport on the Santa Fe Trail").

The orphanage moved to new facilities on 106th Street, its name changed to Marillac School and Home. Marillac continues its mission of serving children from its present location in Overland Park. ■

Thanks to historian Fred L. Lee and the Kansas City Public Library for information used in this article. To see photos of the Orphan Boys' Home, visit the Missouri Valley Special Collections of the Kansas City Public Library on the web.

Contact Us

Website: www.WestPlaza.org

Facebook: West Plaza Neighborhood Association

Email: wpnakc@gmail.com

Mail: P. O. Box 32826, Kansas City, MO 64171-7826

2011 Officers & Directors

President: Joe Montanari

Vice President: Julie Tenenbaum (Newsletter Editor)

Treasurer: Marlene Toms

Secretary: Rachel Francis

Membership: Annie McCormack

Brad McCormack

Stephanie Murrell

Matt Nugent (Webmaster)

John Toms

Food Pantry at Guardian Angels Parish



The Guardian Angels Food Pantry, located in the parish office at 1310 Westport Road, provides emergency assistance food to 50-55 families - about 125 people - every month.

In order to provide this service, the food pantry receives government commodities through Harvesters and purchases food from Harvesters with its own funds. It also accepts donations of food and money from Guardian Angels parishioners and from the general public. Volunteers help coordinate food drives and other projects throughout the year.

To receive emergency assistance, recipients must show photo ID and proof of residence within the boundaries of Southwest Trafficway to State Line, 33rd Street to 45th Street.

The needs of the pantry vary by month, depending on what is available through their sources. Following is a list of items that are usually needed. The pantry also accepts monetary donations.

Jelly
Tuna
Pasta
Cereal
Crackers
Canned Chili
Vegetable Soup
Macaroni & Cheese
Chicken Noodle Soup
Brown Paper Grocery Sacks
Toiletries: bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toilet paper

<p>Hours of Operation: Monday & Thursday, 9-1 Tuesday & Wednesday, 9-5 Friday, 9-11</p>
--

For more information, contact Vickie Lopez, Emergency Assistance Coordinator, at 816-931-4351. ■

<p>We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say, "It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem." Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes.</p> <p>- Mr. Rogers</p>

From Annie Laurie's Kitchen

by Annie McCormack

I made up this pork burrito spread for the Super Bowl and it was a huge hit! Now, I have to warn you, wear gloves when you are chopping up the ingredients – it packs a punch!

Ingredients

- 8 to 10 red new Mexican chilies
- 1 med onion, chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, chopped
- 1/2 tsp cumin
- 3 cup canned beef stock
- 2 lb pork, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 1 8 oz can tomato sauce

Sauté the onion and garlic until soft and remove the stems and seeds from chilies. Place all the ingredients except the pork in a blender and puree to a smooth sauce. You may need to do this in batches.

Brown the pork cubes in a skillet with oil and then add sauce mixture and cover and simmer for 1 1/2 hours on low until tender. ■

Safety on the Street

Believe it or not, spring is almost here. Following are some safety tips to keep in mind while you are out in the neighborhood or at an event:

- Walk confidently. Be alert. Notice who passes you and who's behind you.
- Wear clothes and shoes that give you freedom of movement.
- Carry as little cash as possible.
- Carry a whistle or personal safety device.
- Hold your purse tightly, close to your body. Keep your wallet in a front or buttoned hip pocket.
- Don't overburden yourself with bags or packages, which might impede running or taking care of yourself.
- Walk in well-lighted areas. Don't walk close to bushes, alleys, and so on. In dark or deserted neighborhoods, walk down the middle of the street.
- Don't hitchhike.

(Continued on page 6)

Glass Recycling: It's All It's Cracked Up to Be!

by Stephanie Murrell

West Plaza residents are so conscientious about recycling paper products, so why not glass? Sure, it takes a little extra effort, but it's the right thing to do and a heck of a lot easier than recycling guilt. Last year alone, Kansas Citians threw away *150 million pounds* of perfectly good glass. Luckily, Boulevard Brewing finally came up with a solution: Ripple Glass. Ripple has constructed a state-of-the-art processing plant right here in Kansas City and has placed dedicated glass recycling containers throughout the metro area.

Did you know? Container glass is 100% recyclable, can be recycled endlessly, and is a primary ingredient in fiberglass insulation and new glass containers. Recycling just one glass bottle saves enough electricity to light a 100-watt light bulb for four hours, and recycling a six-pack of beer bottles produces enough fiberglass insulation to fill a standard wall cavity.

Why no curbside pickup? Glass isn't collected curbside because it breaks, and when mixed with other recyclables, broken glass degrades and contaminates those materials.

It's simple! Ripple Glass accepts all glass food and beverage containers; you don't need to separate the glass by color, or take the labels off. Below are recycling locations in the 64111-64114 zip codes. Look for the big purple bins.

DST Systems, Inc., next to World Market, 535 Westport Rd, Kansas City, MO 64111

Home Depot, 111 E. Linwood Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64111

The Capital Grille, 4740 Jefferson, Kansas City, MO 64112

Berbiglia's Liquors, 21 W. 63rd Street, Kansas City, MO 64113

Berbiglia's Liquors, 7856 Wornall, Kansas City, MO 64114

For more information and a complete listing of locations, visit <http://www.rippleglasskc.com/> ■

A big thank-you to members Jennifer Erdtmann, Paul Minto, and Sharon Pendleton for helping with the autumn West Plaza Garden Clean-up last November. You make us look good!

Good Food, Locally Grown

by Jessica Ratcliff



The Westport Plaza Farmers' Market will be returning to the corner of Westport Road and Wyoming Street this summer. Local and Kansas City-based farmers and midtown residents will be coming together to buy and sell sustainably grown vegetables, meat, flowers, and other goodies. The Westport Plaza Farmers' Market will be a weekly open-air event from 4:30 to 7:30 on Wednesday evenings, beginning May 4. Community members and anyone passing by can stop and pick up fresh farm groceries. This is good news for the West Plaza neighborhood, because it gives us convenience and the chance to meet the farmers growing the food we eat.

You can follow your ears, eyes, and nose to find your way to the market. Listen to live acoustic music as you peruse the tomatoes, smell the fresh herbs, and pick out a cut of fresh meat. Stop by on your way home from work, visit with neighbors, and pick out flowers for the dining room table. Or enjoy the short stroll from your house to the market and see what is going on in the neighborhood. And bring the kids! You will be surprised to find all the market has to offer.

The market is a huge asset to the surrounding neighborhoods, providing not only produce but also an opportunity for mutual support between the community and the farmers, who are dedicated to local, healthy food.

There is a need for more volunteers to help the market grow. The market is anticipating adding more vendors, free children's crafts, more live music, and a booth to accept food stamps. If you are interested in being part of this exciting project, please contact Jessica Ratcliff at 816-507-8698. ■

For useful phone numbers of attractions, government services, theaters, recreational facilities, and more, go to http://www.kcrents.com/Kansas_City_Phone.asp

For useful phone numbers of attractions, government services, theaters, recreational facilities, and more, go to http://www.kcrents.com/Kansas_City_Phone.asp

Safety on the Street (Continued from page 4)

- If a car pulls up slowly, or the occupants of the vehicle bother you, cross the street and walk or run in the other direction.
- If you feel someone is following you, turn around and check. Proceed to the nearest lighted house or place of business.
- Be careful when people stop you for directions or information. Always reply from a distance – never get too close to the car.
- If you feel that you are in danger, don't be afraid to scream and run.

And a tip for home safety: When you're at home, never open your door to strangers. Talk through the door to them and watch them when they leave. Observe and report anything suspicious. ■



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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 ■ Facebook: West Plaza Neighborhood Association

Check One: New Renewal
Household (\$12) Senior (\$7) Business (\$25) + Donation _____ = TOTAL _____

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

[March-April 2011]

2011 WPNA Calendar

General Membership Meetings (7-8 p.m.)
Location: Immanuel Lutheran Church
1700 Westport Road (use the North-most door on the West side of the church)

WPNA general membership meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of odd numbered months.

March 15 November 15
July 19 January 17, 2012
September 20

Spring Cleanup & Picnic:
Saturday, May 14 (Westwood Park)

Neighborhood Yard Sales:
Saturday, June 4 (homes in West Plaza)

Free for All:
Saturday, June 11 (location TBA)

Dance in the Park: Saturday, September 10, 6:30 p.m. (Roanoke Park)

Fall Cleanup: Saturday, October 8 (Westwood Park)



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Printing of this newsletter for the 1,100 residences in our neighborhood is generously provided by Print Tekk, a West Plaza neighborhood business and member of the WPNA.

TIPS HOTLINE: 816-474-TIPS

The Greater Kansas City Crime Stoppers Hotline is a vital resource to help reduce crime in our community. If you have information about the Kevin Beaver murder that took place on December 18, 2009 at 44th and Wyoming, please call the TIPS Hotline at 816-474-TIPS (8477). Callers can remain anonymous and are eligible to receive a cash reward if the information given leads to an arrest or grand jury indictment of the felony offender.

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

Submit suggestions for newsletter articles 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):

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2011 WPNA Business Members

Please support the businesses that support your neighborhood. (* New member this month)

<p>ATLANTIS DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS 4618 Wyoming 816-960-1552</p>	<p>GARY JENKINS ATTORNEY AT LAW 816-868-3565</p>	<p>ORGANIZE ME 816-529-6901 www.organizemeinkc.com</p>
<p>SHANNON BASHAM Registered Yoga Alliance Teacher WITS Certified Personal Trainer AHA Certified CPR Trainer 816-810-3623</p>	<p>THE JOHANSEN GROUP herman@thejohansengroup.com 816-308-7974</p>	<p>PICASSO DOG GROOMERY 1811 West 45th St. 816-569-4361 Picassodoggroomery.com</p>
<p>BOOZEFISH WINE BAR 1511 Westport Road 816-561-5995 www.boozefish.com</p>	<p>JAMES HOFFMAN Bookkeeping & Tax Preparation 4400 Roanoke Parkway 913-486-2630</p>	<p>PRINT TEK PRINTING & MAILING 4312 Terrace 816-931-4122</p>
<p>CATHY'S CLIP & CURL SALON 4301 Wyoming St. 816-561-2331</p>	<p>KATE'S CANINE RESORT 2823 Main St. 816-753-4188</p>	<p>PRYDE'S OLD WESTPORT 115 Westport Rd. 816-531-5588 www.prydeskitchen.com</p>
<p>DAVID ALLEN STATE FARM INS. 1414 W. 47th St. 816-753-4334</p>	<p>LAW OFFICES OF KRIGEL & KRIGEL, PC 4550 Belleview Ave. 816-756-5800</p>	<p>RUDY'S TENAMPA TAQUERIA 1611 Westport Road 816-931-9700</p>
<p>DAVISON ARCHITECTURE + URBAN DESIGN 4800 Mercier 816-421-2138</p>	<p>KURT AARONS, DDS 4411 Belleview Ave. 816-531-2070</p>	<p>SADER LAW FIRM 4739 Belleview Ave., Ste. 300 www.saderlawfirm.com</p>
<p>EDDIE DELAHUNT'S CAFÉ & 4448 Bell St. 816-753-3322</p>	<p>LOTUS SKIN CARE 4300 Bell Street, Ste. 204 816-561-0555</p>	<p>SCANDINAVIAN CO-OP LLC 4027 N. Main 913-206-1738</p>
<p>EYE CARE OPTICAL (816) 753-2020 4233 Roanoke Road www.eyecare-optical.com</p>	<p>MARSH'S SUNFRESH MARKET 4001 Mill St. 816-931-1639</p>	<p>SHEEHAN'S IRISH IMPORTS 1412 Westport Rd. 816-561-4480 www.sheehansirish.com</p>
<p>FINAL DRAFT SECRETARIAL SERVICE 4401 Genessee St. 816-931-2276 www.Finaldraftsecretarialservice.com</p>	<p>*McCOY'S PUBLIC HOUSE 4057 Pennsylvania 816-960-0866</p>	<p>SHELTON TRAVEL SERVICE 4800 Belleview Ave. 816-753-4888 www.sheltontravel.com</p>
<p>HAIR STYLE 4500 Bell St. 816-531-4545</p>	<p>MONTANARI FINE ART JEWELERS 4810 Belleview Ave. 816-531-0750 www.montanarijewelers.com</p>	<p>SUNSHINE FLOWERS 4509 Rainbow Blvd. 913-384-5034</p>
		<p>VALLEY VIEW BANK 4550 Belleview Ave. 913-381-3311</p>

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

Stewardship & the Community

by Brad McCormack

Recently the Kansas City news crews have been coming near our neighborhood with far too great frequency. I wish they were coming to highlight positive neighborhood events, but sadly, they are coming to the Westport area to highlight crime and on occasion, death, in what is supposed to be an Entertainment District.

We all have opinions on the causes of these crimes and their solutions, and as a resident of Kansas City, Missouri, I have my opinions as well. But there is one solution that, while possibly a little idealistic, should be able to receive the support of the WPNA and the City as a whole. That idea is that if we truly looked at each other as neighbors, and supported each other as such, we would not have these problems in our city. I am on a committee at my church that focuses on bringing stewardship to the Parish. Stewardship is recognizing that all things we have, both personally and materially, are gifts. And because they are gifts, we are called to give them back to each other for the greater good of the community.

If we truly looked at each other in these terms and with this thought in mind, we would not have the violence or problems that we have in this City. February is a hard month – it's cold, the days are short, and football season doesn't start for another 7 months – but if we can just remember this and work toward the greater good of community and neighbors, tragedies such as the one in Westport may finally come to an end. ■