WEST PLAZA

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



Mark Your Calendar ☑

Upcoming General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, November 18, 2014, 7-8 p.m.
Social Half-Hour begins at 6:30
Immanuel Lutheran Church
1700 Westport Road
Speaker: Master Patrol Officer
James Schriever, KCPD

At our November meeting, Jim Schriever, Master Patrol Officer, KCPD, will bring us up to date on crime in the West Plaza.

We will begin taking nominations for our annual election of officers and board members at this meeting. If you have been a member for a while and want to help guide the future of the West Plaza, this is the time to throw your hat into the ring. Elections will be held at the January meeting. All nine members of the current board will be on the ballot for 2015; there is one open position.

Our community forum at the last meeting produced two very good ideas: West Plaza bumper stickers and a community vegetable garden. We have made progress on each project, and we'll talk about it at this meeting.

If you have not joined the WPNA or have not yet renewed your membership for 2015, you may do so at the meeting. We accept cash or check. You may also use the membership form on page 7 to get a jump on that renewal.

A raffle for a \$25 gift card (all current 2014 members are eligible to enter) will end the meeting. ■

West Plaza Garden Cleanup: Saturday, November 22, 9-Noon

Come help button up the WP Garden for winter! It's at the intersection of Jarboe, 46th Street, and Roanoke Parkway. We'll have fun raking leaves, cleaning up dead plant material, and maybe mulching, too. ■

Using Facebook to Prevent Crime

by John Toms

Facebook can be addictive, but in my opinion, it can be used in a good way. The West Plaza Watch page on Facebook is one of the best crime prevention tools out there today. Our members share information about suspicious vehicles and activity, including people walking down the middle of their street at 4 a.m. looking into cars and trying door handles. Sometimes members share tips about safety equipment, such as car alarms or home security services. They talk about being a victim of a crime and what can be done to prevent it.

We also use the page to spread the word about lost and found pets. Many have been reunited because of the Watch.

I find myself checking this page every day to find out what is occurring in the neighborhood. It is information I may never have heard about without the Watch. I am impressed with the information sharing and comments made by members. Keep up the great work.

Crime is everywhere, but by sharing information about what we see happening in our part of the neighborhood, we can reduce crime in our area. The KCPD has commended us for our active Watch, and I personally think it is one of the reasons we have such low crime rates in West Plaza.

When I checked this morning, the page had 668 members, and we are adding more every week. If you are not a member of the Facebook Watch, please join and share information when you observe it. See page 5 for instructions about how to become a member.

Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,
Nothing is going to happen, it's not. — Dr. Seuss

Looking Back: How Did We Get Here?

by Joe Montanari

Kansas City owes its existence to a lucky accident of geology and geography...and some terrific feats of engineering. During the last Ice Age, a massive glacier covered the northern half of North America, stopping here at the rocky ridge that forms the southern bank of the Missouri river. As the glaciers melted, the runoff scoured out the river channels that became the Mississippi, the Missouri, and the Kaw. The Missouri was held in check by the limestone bluffs, where a rocky outcropping formed a natural ledge at the point where Grand Avenue meets the river today. Although it is largely covered by concrete now, in a few spots the natural rock is still visible. French trappers and traders found this ledge to be an ideal spot to moor their keelboats, safely past the treacherous currents where the Kaw River entered the Missouri. Although the north bank of the river is much flatter and easier to build upon, it forms the river's floodplain. Until the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed the system of levees that now protects Kansas City, the area was especially prone to devastating floods.

As English-speaking settlers arrived here from Kentucky and Tennessee, they founded the town of West Port in order to take advantage of the overland trade with New Mexico along the Santa Fe Trail. John Calvin McCoy, the surveyor, platted out the new town, using the trailhead for his Main Street, instead of laying the town out in a typical north-south/east-west grid. McCoy's Main Street runs on the diagonal, in a more or less southwesterly direction out of town toward Santa Fe, and today we call it Westport Road.

Steamboat captains soon plied the Missouri, off-loading freight at that rocky river ledge, which they dubbed "Westport Landing." This was nearly ideal except that the river bluffs rose dramatically immediately behind the narrow landing, several hundred feet above the river. Although it was only seven miles to Westport from the river, the only access to the high ground was a narrow trail, suitable only for mule trains or oxen.

The confluence of the Kaw and the Missouri enabled riverboats to bring people and commerce here from the east, and Indian trade from the west, but that economic engine began to sputter by the Civil War. Although steamboats continued

to ply the rivers until the late 1800s, soon the race was on to connect the east coast with the west. But railroads could be built anywhere. The Missouri and Kaw rivers were now an impediment. Westport and the fledgling Kansas City would have become an historic afterthought, if it were not for a group of energetic civic leaders who lobbied Congress, wheeled and dealed with the railroads, and raised the funds in a race against time to build the Hannibal Bridge across the Missouri river. (The current Hannibal Bridge is in almost the same location as the original, near the Broadway Bridge.) Kansas City owes its great success as a transportation hub and warehousing and manufacturing center to the engineer, Octave Chanute, and the men who built that old iron bridge in 1869.

Most of those high river bluffs are gone now, with only a few spots such as Quality Hill and Kessler Park still remaining at their original elevations. It may be difficult to imagine today, but similar bluffs once covered the area that now forms Downtown and the River Market. Vast quantities of earth were excavated in the latter half of the 1800s in order to level the ground for the new city. Much of downtown has been scraped down to solid bedrock, an ideal footing for the high-rise towers that now form the Kansas City skyline.

Greg's Calendar

by Greg Madden

Free Public Tours (see website for tour hours) Boulevard Brewing Company

http://www.boulevard.com/brewery/brewery-tours/free-public-tour/

816-474-7095

The Money Museum (Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City)

http://www.kc.frb.org/moneymuseum/includes/index.cfm

816-881-2683 or 1-800-333-1010 x 2683

The Roasterie

http://www.theroasterie.com/about/tours 816-931-4000 or 800-376-0245

Free Event

Kansas City Union Station Centennial Celebration http://www.unionstation.org/100years/

November 1 & 2, 2014

FORKS & RAKES by Stephanie Murrell

Stuffed Acorn Squash

Easy and Delicious!

Acorn squash halves are filled with butter, brown sugar, stuffing mix, savory spices, and then baked. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese, if desired.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 acorn squash, halved and seeded
- 4 tablespoons butter, divided
- 4 tablespoons brown sugar, divided
- 2 cups dry bread stuffing mix, divided*
- 1 1/2 cups chicken broth, divided salt and pepper to taste

To taste add: garlic powder, onion powder, dry sage

DIRECTIONS:

- Preheat oven to 400 degrees F.
- Place squash face up in a shallow baking dish. In each half, place 2 tablespoons butter, 2 tablespoons brown sugar, 1 cup stuffing mix, 3/4 cup chicken broth, salt, pepper, garlic powder, and onion powder. Wrap each half tightly with aluminum foil.
- Bake in preheated oven for 60 minutes, or until squash is very tender.

*Stuffing shortcut: You may use "Stove Top Stuffing" and it's just as delicious (I use Traditional Sage flavor). Prepare the Stove Top as directed but eliminate chicken broth, garlic powder, and onion powder. I like to add a small amount of chopped apple, raisins, and chopped walnuts into the stuffing as it is being prepared to give it a more homemade flavor.

Home Maintenance Tips for Fall

Examine your roof, gutters, and downspouts for debris. Clear leaves, dirt, and pine needles from gutters and examine downspouts for damage or loose pieces. Check the flashing around your chimney and any openings in the roof for leaks.

Examine the grounds of your property. Before the grass is covered with snow or it is too cold to venture outside, check walkways for cracks and loose paving material. Fix walkway and entryway areas before slippery weather can cause a tripping or falling accident.

Change the filters in your home. If you have a central air conditioning system, change the air filter regularly. If you have a window air conditioning unit, remove it from the window or place a waterproof cover over it to prevent damage. Change filters in stove vents, clothes dryers, and room fans. Clean air filters will keep your family healthier in the fall and winter months.

Leaky faucets? Repair them now. Before the temperatures start to dip, examine leaky faucets in the kitchen, bathrooms, and utility room. The time and money spent now to fix them will be less than for a broken pipe in the winter!

Prepare your fireplace. Some people use their fireplace more than their central heat in the fall and winter months. Discard old ashes and ensure the damper is open to allow air to freely move through the chimney. If the air is becoming cold, close back the damper after cleaning. Check the damper handle and springs to ensure the flue is operating correctly. Hire a professional chimney sweep if needed.

Drain the hot water heater. Sediments could be building up in your tank. Now is the time to drain it and make sure rust is not developing in your tank as well. If your water heater is old or rusting, consider buying a new one that will be more cost effective and energy efficient.

Check windows and doors for drafts. The majority of conditioned air in your home is lost through the windows and doors. Go through your home and open windows to ensure the seal and caulking around the window frame is in good condition. Think about adding heavier draperies around windows that are extra drafty to help block air infiltration.

Have garden power tools serviced. Once your grass begins to enter the dormant stage, take your lawnmower, trimmer, and other tools to get their blades sharpened and fluids recapped off. If you're in the market for new garden power tools, buy now when the season is almost over... you will find great deals.

Enjoy these last days of autumn, because they are going fast. Use these tips to get a jump start on your fall home maintenance. Your home will thank you!

Dear Tommy

Excerpt from the newsletter of Rude Ranch Animal Rescue, a no-kill animal shelter located in Harwood, Maryland, dedicated to the rescue, care, and adoption of homeless animals. www.Ruderanch.org

Dear Tommy,

My humans are really nice. They took me in and gave me a bed and toys. They snuggle with me



every night. I'm part of the family, right? Then why won't they share their food with me? They eat all kinds of great smelling stuff while I have to eat brown pellets from a bowl! What gives?

Sincerely,

Feeling Deprived

Dear Feeling Deprived,

I understand how frustrating it is for you to eat that same kibble day in and day out, but your humans are keeping their food away from you because it can make you very sick.

Here's some stuff you should never eat. Onions, garlic, and chives will affect the way your body makes red blood cells and make you anemic. Grapes and raisins are fun to play with, but they will make your kidneys stop working. Most hard candy and gum have an ingredient called Xylitol in them that will make your liver stop working. Chocolate, especially really pure dark chocolate or baker's chocolate, contains theobromine, which will make you have seizures that you may not recover from.

Don't try to drink your human's coffee in the morning! There is no antidote for caffeine poisoning in cats. Likewise, do not "help" your humans with their alcoholic beverages. Did you know that just 2 teaspoons of whiskey is enough to cause alcohol poisoning and put a 5-pound cat into a coma? Also, don't steal and play with any of your humans' medicines. Many of those can cause liver and kidney failure in just hours.

Human tuna is delicious, but if you eat it all the time, you will not get proper nutrition. Likewise, all felines love a bowl of cream or 2% milk, not to mention yogurt, ice cream, butter, sour cream, and cream cheese. Your body can't process lactose, so if you "sample" too much, you will end up with a tummy ache and diarrhea. You should also not eat raw meat or eggs very often. Just like humans, you could get salmonella or food poisoning

from them. (Plus, raw egg whites can interfere with B vitamin absorption). Lastly, liver is good for you, but if you eat too much, you could end up with too much Vitamin A that can cause weird bone growths.

So next time your humans don't want to share with you, just remember it is because they want you to be healthy for a long time!

Your Pal,

Tommy ■

Treats for the Furry Ones

by April Porter

The holiday season is fast approaching, and that usually means lots of delightful treats! Those treats, however, are not so delightful for your furry ones, so here are a couple of tasty treat recipes just for them.

Peanut Butter Doggie Bones

Ingredients

2 cups whole wheat flour

1 tablespoon baking powder

1 cup natural peanut butter

1 cup low fat milk

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In a bowl, combine flour and baking powder. In another bowl, mix peanut butter and milk. Add wet mixture to dry, and mix well.

Turn out dough onto a lightly floured surface. Roll out to ¼- inch thickness and cut out shapes. Place on a greased baking sheet and bake 20 minutes or until lightly brown. Cool on a rack and store in an airtight container.

Tuna Bite Cat Treats

Ingredients

6 ounces undrained tuna

1 cup cornmeal

1 cup flour

1/3 cup water

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Place all of the ingredients into a bowl. Mix until a dough is made.

Turn out dough onto a lightly floured surface. Roll out to 1/4-inch thickness, place on a greased baking sheet, and bake for 20 minutes. Cool on a rack, break into treat-sized pieces, and store in an airtight container. ■

Source: browneyedbaker.com and budgetsavvydiva.com

Cat Deterrents

For the past few years, we have been working to reduce the number of feral cats in West Plaza through the humane TNR (trap-neuter-return) method. If your garden or yard has become a favorite place for ferals to hang out, you may be looking for ways to discourage them from doing so. The following are methods suggested by Joyce E. Ellis of WarmFuzzy's Rescue and Sanctuary in Drexel, Missouri. (warmfuzzys.org)

Scatter fresh orange and lemon peels or spray with citrus-scented fragrances in the area. Coffee grounds, pipe tobacco, or oil of lavender, lemongrass, citronella, or eucalyptus also repel cats.

Plant the herb rue, or sprinkle dried rue over the garden.

Use plastic carpet runners spike-side up, covered lightly in soil. They can be found at local hardware or office supply stores. Or set chicken wire firmly into the dirt with sharp edges rolled under.

Arrange branches in a lattice-type pattern or wooden or plastic lattice fencing material over soil. You can disguise these by planting flowers and seeds in the openings. You can also try embedding wooden chopsticks, pinecones, or sticks with dull points deep into the soil with the tops exposed eight inches apart.

Obtain Cat Scat[™], a nonchemical cat and wildlife repellent consisting of plastic mats that are cut into small pieces and pressed into the soil. Each mat has flexible plastic spikes that are harmless to cats and other animals, but discourage digging. Available at www.gardeners.com.

Cover exposed ground in flower beds with large, attractive river rocks to prevent cats from digging. (They have the added benefit of deterring weeds.)

Establish a litter box in an out-of-the-way spot in your yard by tilling the soil or placing sand. Keep it clean and free of deposits.

Use an aromatic spray product, such as Dog and Cat Repellent, available at pet supply stores and www.gardeners.com. Apply liberally around the edges of the yard, the tops of fences, and on any favorite digging areas or plants.

Install an ultrasonic animal repellent or a motionactivated water sprinkler, such as the Scare-Crow™ or CatStop™ (Contech). Available at http://www.contech-inc.com/ In colder weather, feral cats look for dry, warm shelter away from the elements. If the cats are getting into places where you don't want them, Ellis suggests the following:

Physically block or seal the location the cats are entering with chicken wire or lattice once you are certain the cats are not inside. Be sure to search for kittens, especially during spring, which is prime kitten season.

Provide a shelter (similar to a small doghouse).

If the cats are part of a managed feral colony, ask the caregiver to provide a shelter for the cats. Shelters should be hidden to keep the cats safe, and placing them well can help guide the cats away from unwanted areas. ■

CityWise

Cities along State Line Road divide responsibility for snow removal along a north/south axis.

Kansas City, Missouri plows State Line from I-435 south to the end of State Line. State Line north from I-435 is plowed by the Kansas cities along it (Leawood, Prairie Village, Mission Hills, etc.)

Have You Connected with the West Plaza Watch Facebook Page?

The West Plaza Watch Facebook page administered by the WPNA now has almost 700 members. It's a great tool to keep us all connected with each other, and it's all about safety. To join, go to Facebook -> West Plaza Watch, and click on Join. A private message will be sent to your inbox (in some cases, it goes to your "other" inbox). After you respond to the message, you will be admitted. ■



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Dog Poop Revisited. Yet Again.

By Harold Scott



Cleaning up pet waste has long been a pet peeve of mine. I don't know about you, but I deal with dog waste left by negligent dog owners every day in my part of the West Plaza neighborhood. Dog poop is a problem many of us deal with on a daily basis. But is it dan-

gerous? Is pet waste a health hazard? How much do you know?

I recently read an article on the Dog Talk 101 blog that identifies potential disease issues associated with dog waste. Here are the dangerous facts:

- 1. Dog poop is NOT good fertilizer. It's toxic to your lawn. The high nutrient concentration in dog poop will burn and discolor the grass, creating "hot spots."
- 2. Nearly two decades ago, the Environmental Protection Agency classified pet waste as a dangerous pollutant in the same category as toxic chemicals and oil.
- 3. You may not live near water, but unscooped poop from your yard is carried by overland water flow or is washed into storm drains, ending up in far-away streams, rivers, and ground water.
- 4. The U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention confirms pet waste can spread parasites including hookworms, ringworms, tapeworms, and Salmonella. When infected dog poop comes into contact with your lawn, the poop will eventually "disappear," but the parasite eggs can linger for years. When a human or animal comes into contact with that soil through everyday activities like walking barefoot, gardening, or playing, they risk infection from those eggs, even years after the poop is gone.
- 5. Pet waste is teeming with E. coli and other harmful bacteria, including fecal coliform bacteria, which causes serious kidney disorders, intestinal illness, cramps, and diarrhea in humans. (There are 23 million fecal coliform bacteria in a single gram of pet waste!)
- 6. Dog poop often contains roundworm larvae, which cause blindness. If a human ingests a roundworm larva, it can migrate through the body, causing disease to the brain, lungs, kidneys, liver, heart, or eyes. When people (especially children)



Westport Roanoke Golden Age Club (Golden Boomers)

- · Open to everyone age 60 and older
- Meets every Tuesday from 10:30 to about 1:00 p.m. at Westport Roanoke Community Center (3601 Roanoke Road)
- Provides a casual, friendly environment and entertainment such as singers, musicians, and bingo
- Coffee and snacks are provided
- Potluck meal on the third Tuesday of the month

Stop in and check us out! We welcome new members. For more information, contact Mick Gippner at 816-373-9147.

touch soil, dog toys, or anything that has been in contact with dog feces and then touch their mouths, they can become infected.

Dog poop doesn't just "wash away" or disappear. So if you're not disposing of your dog's waste, you're putting yourself, your family, your dog, and your water supply at risk.

Please help keep our neighborhood safe by cleaning up after your pets. ■



Liam Porter, Agent 1207 W 47th Street Kansas City, MO 64112 Bus: 816-753-4334 www.sfplazaagent.com

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NOTICE! WPNA Membership runs on the calendar year, from January 1 through December 31.

If you have not renewed for 2015, please do it now.

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-Discussion Group

www.westpiaza.org • Facebook: west Piaza Neighborhood Association-Discussion Group			
Check One: New [] Re Household (\$15) [] Business (\$25) []	enewal [] + Donation = TOTAL		
	I would like to help the neighborhood with:		
Name	Property Maintenance/Zoning [] Picnic []		
Address	Neighborhood Clean-up [] Yard Sale []		
	Neighborhood Watch [] Porchfest []		
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e-mail	Newsletter Distribution [] Membership []		
Business Member Contact Name:	Feral Cat Program []		
	[November-December 2014]		

2014-15 WPNA Calendar

General Membership Meetings (7-8 p.m.) 30-minute social "hour" begins at 6:30

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 on the third Tuesday of odd-numbered months: November 18.

January 20, 2015

West Plaza Garden Cleanup: Sat., Nov. 22 (9 a.m.noon) The garden is located at the junction of Jarboe, Roanoke Parkway, and 46th Street.

~ More 2015 events will be added in January ~

Feral Cat Issues?

Contact Sharon Martin 816-931-1194 Feral.WPNA@gmail.com



To help WPNA sponsor this program, send your donation to P.O. Box 32826, KCMO 64171-7826



4233 Roanoke Road (816) 753-2020 www.eyecare-optical.com **Doug Scheelk** A.B.O. Certified Optician

Printing of the 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.

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.

Display advertising rates for members:

Business card \$25 Half page \$50 Full page Quarter page \$35 \$100 Display advertising rates for non-members: Add \$20.



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U.S. Mail:

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Please support the businesses that serve and support your neighborhood.

A \$25 Business Membership includes your name and contact information in each newsletter, which is sent as a pdf to a 300-name email list and hand-delivered six times per year to 1,100 homes in the West Plaza neighborhood.

*New Member this month

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Mark Your Calendar ☑

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Social Half-Hour begins at 6:30
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1700 Westport Road
Speaker: Master Patrol Officer
James Schriever, KCPD

At our November meeting, Jim Schriever, Master Patrol Officer, KCPD, will bring us up to date on crime in the West Plaza.

We will begin taking nominations for our annual election of officers and board members at this meeting. If you have been a member for a while and want to help guide the future of the West Plaza, this is the time to throw your hat into the ring. Elections will be held at the January meeting. All nine members of the current board will be on the ballot for 2015; there is one open position.

Our community forum at the last meeting produced two very good ideas: West Plaza bumper stickers and a community vegetable garden. We have made progress on each project, and we'll talk about it at this meeting.

If you have not joined the WPNA or have not yet renewed your membership for 2015, you may do so at the meeting. We accept cash or check. You may also use the membership form on page 7 to get a jump on that renewal.

A raffle for a \$25 gift card (all current 2014 members are eligible to enter) will end the meeting. ■

West Plaza Garden Cleanup: Saturday, November 22, 9-Noon

Come help button up the WP Garden for winter! It's at the intersection of Jarboe, 46th Street, and Roanoke Parkway. We'll have fun raking leaves, cleaning up dead plant material, and maybe mulching, too. ■

Using Facebook to Prevent Crime

by John Toms

Facebook can be addictive, but in my opinion, it can be used in a good way. The West Plaza Watch page on Facebook is one of the best crime prevention tools out there today. Our members share information about suspicious vehicles and activity, including people walking down the middle of their street at 4 a.m. looking into cars and trying door handles. Sometimes members share tips about safety equipment, such as car alarms or home security services. They talk about being a victim of a crime and what can be done to prevent it.

We also use the page to spread the word about lost and found pets. Many have been reunited because of the Watch.

I find myself checking this page every day to find out what is occurring in the neighborhood. It is information I may never have heard about without the Watch. I am impressed with the information sharing and comments made by members. Keep up the great work.

Crime is everywhere, but by sharing information about what we see happening in our part of the neighborhood, we can reduce crime in our area. The KCPD has commended us for our active Watch, and I personally think it is one of the reasons we have such low crime rates in West Plaza.

When I checked this morning, the page had 668 members, and we are adding more every week. If you are not a member of the Facebook Watch, please join and share information when you observe it. See page 5 for instructions about how to become a member.

Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,
Nothing is going to happen, it's not. — Dr. Seuss

Looking Back: How Did We Get Here?

by Joe Montanari

Kansas City owes its existence to a lucky accident of geology and geography...and some terrific feats of engineering. During the last Ice Age, a massive glacier covered the northern half of North America, stopping here at the rocky ridge that forms the southern bank of the Missouri river. As the glaciers melted, the runoff scoured out the river channels that became the Mississippi, the Missouri, and the Kaw. The Missouri was held in check by the limestone bluffs, where a rocky outcropping formed a natural ledge at the point where Grand Avenue meets the river today. Although it is largely covered by concrete now, in a few spots the natural rock is still visible. French trappers and traders found this ledge to be an ideal spot to moor their keelboats, safely past the treacherous currents where the Kaw River entered the Missouri. Although the north bank of the river is much flatter and easier to build upon, it forms the river's floodplain. Until the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed the system of levees that now protects Kansas City, the area was especially prone to devastating floods.

As English-speaking settlers arrived here from Kentucky and Tennessee, they founded the town of West Port in order to take advantage of the overland trade with New Mexico along the Santa Fe Trail. John Calvin McCoy, the surveyor, platted out the new town, using the trailhead for his Main Street, instead of laying the town out in a typical north-south/east-west grid. McCoy's Main Street runs on the diagonal, in a more or less southwesterly direction out of town toward Santa Fe, and today we call it Westport Road.

Steamboat captains soon plied the Missouri, off-loading freight at that rocky river ledge, which they dubbed "Westport Landing." This was nearly ideal except that the river bluffs rose dramatically immediately behind the narrow landing, several hundred feet above the river. Although it was only seven miles to Westport from the river, the only access to the high ground was a narrow trail, suitable only for mule trains or oxen.

The confluence of the Kaw and the Missouri enabled riverboats to bring people and commerce here from the east, and Indian trade from the west, but that economic engine began to sputter by the Civil War. Although steamboats continued

to ply the rivers until the late 1800s, soon the race was on to connect the east coast with the west. But railroads could be built anywhere. The Missouri and Kaw rivers were now an impediment. Westport and the fledgling Kansas City would have become an historic afterthought, if it were not for a group of energetic civic leaders who lobbied Congress, wheeled and dealed with the railroads, and raised the funds in a race against time to build the Hannibal Bridge across the Missouri river. (The current Hannibal Bridge is in almost the same location as the original, near the Broadway Bridge.) Kansas City owes its great success as a transportation hub and warehousing and manufacturing center to the engineer, Octave Chanute, and the men who built that old iron bridge in 1869.

Most of those high river bluffs are gone now, with only a few spots such as Quality Hill and Kessler Park still remaining at their original elevations. It may be difficult to imagine today, but similar bluffs once covered the area that now forms Downtown and the River Market. Vast quantities of earth were excavated in the latter half of the 1800s in order to level the ground for the new city. Much of downtown has been scraped down to solid bedrock, an ideal footing for the high-rise towers that now form the Kansas City skyline.

Greg's Calendar

by Greg Madden

Free Public Tours (see website for tour hours) Boulevard Brewing Company

http://www.boulevard.com/brewery/brewery-tours/free-public-tour/

816-474-7095

The Money Museum (Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City)

http://www.kc.frb.org/moneymuseum/includes/index.cfm

816-881-2683 or 1-800-333-1010 x 2683

The Roasterie

http://www.theroasterie.com/about/tours 816-931-4000 or 800-376-0245

Free Event

Kansas City Union Station Centennial Celebration http://www.unionstation.org/100years/

November 1 & 2, 2014

FORKS & RAKES by Stephanie Murrell

Stuffed Acorn Squash

Easy and Delicious!

Acorn squash halves are filled with butter, brown sugar, stuffing mix, savory spices, and then baked. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese, if desired.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 acorn squash, halved and seeded
- 4 tablespoons butter, divided
- 4 tablespoons brown sugar, divided
- 2 cups dry bread stuffing mix, divided*
- 1 1/2 cups chicken broth, divided salt and pepper to taste

To taste add: garlic powder, onion powder, dry sage

DIRECTIONS:

- Preheat oven to 400 degrees F.
- Place squash face up in a shallow baking dish. In each half, place 2 tablespoons butter, 2 tablespoons brown sugar, 1 cup stuffing mix, 3/4 cup chicken broth, salt, pepper, garlic powder, and onion powder. Wrap each half tightly with aluminum foil.
- Bake in preheated oven for 60 minutes, or until squash is very tender.

*Stuffing shortcut: You may use "Stove Top Stuffing" and it's just as delicious (I use Traditional Sage flavor). Prepare the Stove Top as directed but eliminate chicken broth, garlic powder, and onion powder. I like to add a small amount of chopped apple, raisins, and chopped walnuts into the stuffing as it is being prepared to give it a more homemade flavor.

Home Maintenance Tips for Fall

Examine your roof, gutters, and downspouts for debris. Clear leaves, dirt, and pine needles from gutters and examine downspouts for damage or loose pieces. Check the flashing around your chimney and any openings in the roof for leaks.

Examine the grounds of your property. Before the grass is covered with snow or it is too cold to venture outside, check walkways for cracks and loose paving material. Fix walkway and entryway areas before slippery weather can cause a tripping or falling accident.

Change the filters in your home. If you have a central air conditioning system, change the air filter regularly. If you have a window air conditioning unit, remove it from the window or place a waterproof cover over it to prevent damage. Change filters in stove vents, clothes dryers, and room fans. Clean air filters will keep your family healthier in the fall and winter months.

Leaky faucets? Repair them now. Before the temperatures start to dip, examine leaky faucets in the kitchen, bathrooms, and utility room. The time and money spent now to fix them will be less than for a broken pipe in the winter!

Prepare your fireplace. Some people use their fireplace more than their central heat in the fall and winter months. Discard old ashes and ensure the damper is open to allow air to freely move through the chimney. If the air is becoming cold, close back the damper after cleaning. Check the damper handle and springs to ensure the flue is operating correctly. Hire a professional chimney sweep if needed.

Drain the hot water heater. Sediments could be building up in your tank. Now is the time to drain it and make sure rust is not developing in your tank as well. If your water heater is old or rusting, consider buying a new one that will be more cost effective and energy efficient.

Check windows and doors for drafts. The majority of conditioned air in your home is lost through the windows and doors. Go through your home and open windows to ensure the seal and caulking around the window frame is in good condition. Think about adding heavier draperies around windows that are extra drafty to help block air infiltration.

Have garden power tools serviced. Once your grass begins to enter the dormant stage, take your lawnmower, trimmer, and other tools to get their blades sharpened and fluids recapped off. If you're in the market for new garden power tools, buy now when the season is almost over... you will find great deals.

Enjoy these last days of autumn, because they are going fast. Use these tips to get a jump start on your fall home maintenance. Your home will thank you!

Dear Tommy

Excerpt from the newsletter of Rude Ranch Animal Rescue, a no-kill animal shelter located in Harwood, Maryland, dedicated to the rescue, care, and adoption of homeless animals. www.Ruderanch.org

Dear Tommy,

My humans are really nice. They took me in and gave me a bed and toys. They snuggle with me



every night. I'm part of the family, right? Then why won't they share their food with me? They eat all kinds of great smelling stuff while I have to eat brown pellets from a bowl! What gives?

Sincerely,

Feeling Deprived

Dear Feeling Deprived,

I understand how frustrating it is for you to eat that same kibble day in and day out, but your humans are keeping their food away from you because it can make you very sick.

Here's some stuff you should never eat. Onions, garlic, and chives will affect the way your body makes red blood cells and make you anemic. Grapes and raisins are fun to play with, but they will make your kidneys stop working. Most hard candy and gum have an ingredient called Xylitol in them that will make your liver stop working. Chocolate, especially really pure dark chocolate or baker's chocolate, contains theobromine, which will make you have seizures that you may not recover from.

Don't try to drink your human's coffee in the morning! There is no antidote for caffeine poisoning in cats. Likewise, do not "help" your humans with their alcoholic beverages. Did you know that just 2 teaspoons of whiskey is enough to cause alcohol poisoning and put a 5-pound cat into a coma? Also, don't steal and play with any of your humans' medicines. Many of those can cause liver and kidney failure in just hours.

Human tuna is delicious, but if you eat it all the time, you will not get proper nutrition. Likewise, all felines love a bowl of cream or 2% milk, not to mention yogurt, ice cream, butter, sour cream, and cream cheese. Your body can't process lactose, so if you "sample" too much, you will end up with a tummy ache and diarrhea. You should also not eat raw meat or eggs very often. Just like humans, you could get salmonella or food poisoning

from them. (Plus, raw egg whites can interfere with B vitamin absorption). Lastly, liver is good for you, but if you eat too much, you could end up with too much Vitamin A that can cause weird bone growths.

So next time your humans don't want to share with you, just remember it is because they want you to be healthy for a long time!

Your Pal,

Tommy ■

Treats for the Furry Ones

by April Porter

The holiday season is fast approaching, and that usually means lots of delightful treats! Those treats, however, are not so delightful for your furry ones, so here are a couple of tasty treat recipes just for them.

Peanut Butter Doggie Bones

Ingredients

2 cups whole wheat flour

1 tablespoon baking powder

1 cup natural peanut butter

1 cup low fat milk

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In a bowl, combine flour and baking powder. In another bowl, mix peanut butter and milk. Add wet mixture to dry, and mix well.

Turn out dough onto a lightly floured surface. Roll out to ¼- inch thickness and cut out shapes. Place on a greased baking sheet and bake 20 minutes or until lightly brown. Cool on a rack and store in an airtight container.

Tuna Bite Cat Treats

Ingredients

6 ounces undrained tuna

1 cup cornmeal

1 cup flour

1/3 cup water

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Place all of the ingredients into a bowl. Mix until a dough is made.

Turn out dough onto a lightly floured surface. Roll out to 1/4-inch thickness, place on a greased baking sheet, and bake for 20 minutes. Cool on a rack, break into treat-sized pieces, and store in an airtight container. ■

Source: browneyedbaker.com and budgetsavvydiva.com

Cat Deterrents

For the past few years, we have been working to reduce the number of feral cats in West Plaza through the humane TNR (trap-neuter-return) method. If your garden or yard has become a favorite place for ferals to hang out, you may be looking for ways to discourage them from doing so. The following are methods suggested by Joyce E. Ellis of WarmFuzzy's Rescue and Sanctuary in Drexel, Missouri. (warmfuzzys.org)

Scatter fresh orange and lemon peels or spray with citrus-scented fragrances in the area. Coffee grounds, pipe tobacco, or oil of lavender, lemongrass, citronella, or eucalyptus also repel cats.

Plant the herb rue, or sprinkle dried rue over the garden.

Use plastic carpet runners spike-side up, covered lightly in soil. They can be found at local hardware or office supply stores. Or set chicken wire firmly into the dirt with sharp edges rolled under.

Arrange branches in a lattice-type pattern or wooden or plastic lattice fencing material over soil. You can disguise these by planting flowers and seeds in the openings. You can also try embedding wooden chopsticks, pinecones, or sticks with dull points deep into the soil with the tops exposed eight inches apart.

Obtain Cat Scat[™], a nonchemical cat and wildlife repellent consisting of plastic mats that are cut into small pieces and pressed into the soil. Each mat has flexible plastic spikes that are harmless to cats and other animals, but discourage digging. Available at www.gardeners.com.

Cover exposed ground in flower beds with large, attractive river rocks to prevent cats from digging. (They have the added benefit of deterring weeds.)

Establish a litter box in an out-of-the-way spot in your yard by tilling the soil or placing sand. Keep it clean and free of deposits.

Use an aromatic spray product, such as Dog and Cat Repellent, available at pet supply stores and www.gardeners.com. Apply liberally around the edges of the yard, the tops of fences, and on any favorite digging areas or plants.

Install an ultrasonic animal repellent or a motionactivated water sprinkler, such as the Scare-Crow™ or CatStop™ (Contech). Available at http://www.contech-inc.com/ In colder weather, feral cats look for dry, warm shelter away from the elements. If the cats are getting into places where you don't want them, Ellis suggests the following:

Physically block or seal the location the cats are entering with chicken wire or lattice once you are certain the cats are not inside. Be sure to search for kittens, especially during spring, which is prime kitten season.

Provide a shelter (similar to a small doghouse).

If the cats are part of a managed feral colony, ask the caregiver to provide a shelter for the cats. Shelters should be hidden to keep the cats safe, and placing them well can help guide the cats away from unwanted areas. ■

CityWise

Cities along State Line Road divide responsibility for snow removal along a north/south axis.

Kansas City, Missouri plows State Line from I-435 south to the end of State Line. State Line north from I-435 is plowed by the Kansas cities along it (Leawood, Prairie Village, Mission Hills, etc.)

Have You Connected with the West Plaza Watch Facebook Page?

The West Plaza Watch Facebook page administered by the WPNA now has almost 700 members. It's a great tool to keep us all connected with each other, and it's all about safety. To join, go to Facebook -> West Plaza Watch, and click on Join. A private message will be sent to your inbox (in some cases, it goes to your "other" inbox). After you respond to the message, you will be admitted. ■



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Dog Poop Revisited. Yet Again.

By Harold Scott



Cleaning up pet waste has long been a pet peeve of mine. I don't know about you, but I deal with dog waste left by negligent dog owners every day in my part of the West Plaza neighborhood. Dog poop is a problem many of us deal with on a daily basis. But is it dan-

gerous? Is pet waste a health hazard? How much do you know?

I recently read an article on the Dog Talk 101 blog that identifies potential disease issues associated with dog waste. Here are the dangerous facts:

- 1. Dog poop is NOT good fertilizer. It's toxic to your lawn. The high nutrient concentration in dog poop will burn and discolor the grass, creating "hot spots."
- 2. Nearly two decades ago, the Environmental Protection Agency classified pet waste as a dangerous pollutant in the same category as toxic chemicals and oil.
- 3. You may not live near water, but unscooped poop from your yard is carried by overland water flow or is washed into storm drains, ending up in far-away streams, rivers, and ground water.
- 4. The U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention confirms pet waste can spread parasites including hookworms, ringworms, tapeworms, and Salmonella. When infected dog poop comes into contact with your lawn, the poop will eventually "disappear," but the parasite eggs can linger for years. When a human or animal comes into contact with that soil through everyday activities like walking barefoot, gardening, or playing, they risk infection from those eggs, even years after the poop is gone.
- 5. Pet waste is teeming with E. coli and other harmful bacteria, including fecal coliform bacteria, which causes serious kidney disorders, intestinal illness, cramps, and diarrhea in humans. (There are 23 million fecal coliform bacteria in a single gram of pet waste!)
- 6. Dog poop often contains roundworm larvae, which cause blindness. If a human ingests a roundworm larva, it can migrate through the body, causing disease to the brain, lungs, kidneys, liver, heart, or eyes. When people (especially children)



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- Provides a casual, friendly environment and entertainment such as singers, musicians, and bingo
- Coffee and snacks are provided
- Potluck meal on the third Tuesday of the month

Stop in and check us out! We welcome new members. For more information, contact Mick Gippner at 816-373-9147.

touch soil, dog toys, or anything that has been in contact with dog feces and then touch their mouths, they can become infected.

Dog poop doesn't just "wash away" or disappear. So if you're not disposing of your dog's waste, you're putting yourself, your family, your dog, and your water supply at risk.

Please help keep our neighborhood safe by cleaning up after your pets. ■



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NOTICE! WPNA Membership runs on the calendar year, from January 1 through December 31.

If you have not renewed for 2015, please do it now.

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-Discussion Group

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Business Member Contact No	ame:	Feral Cat Program []	
		[November-December 2014]	

2014-15 WPNA Calendar

General Membership Meetings (7-8 p.m.) 30-minute social "hour" begins at 6:30

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 on the third Tuesday of odd-numbered months: November 18.

January 20, 2015

West Plaza Garden Cleanup: Sat., Nov. 22 (9 a.m.-noon) The garden is located at the junction of Jarboe, Roanoke Parkway, and 46th Street.

~ More 2015 events will be added in January ~

Feral Cat Issues?

Contact Sharon Martin 816-931-1194 Feral.WPNA@gmail.com



To help WPNA sponsor this program, send your donation to P.O. Box 32826, KCMO 64171-7826



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Printing of the 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.

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.

Display advertising rates for members:

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Please support the businesses that serve and support your neighborhood.

A \$25 Business Membership includes your name and contact information in each newsletter, which is sent as a pdf to a 300-name email list and hand-delivered six times per year to 1,100 homes in the West Plaza neighborhood.

*New Member this month

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