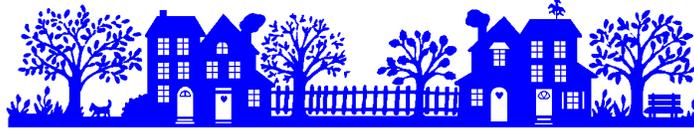


WEST PLAZA

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



Mark Your Calendar

Upcoming General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, March 18, 7-8 p.m.
Social Half-Hour begins at 6:30
Immanuel Lutheran Church
1700 Westport Road
Speakers: Mary Jo Draper, NextRail KC
Jim Glover, City Council

We have invited two speakers to our meeting.

City Hall: Jim Glover, At-Large Fourth District City Councilperson, will be our guest speaker at this meeting. He will talk about current happenings at City Hall and will take your questions.

Streetcars: The city of Kansas City is studying possible expansion routes for the downtown streetcar starter line, including routes on Main Street, Linwood or 31st Street, and Independence Avenue. Mary Jo Draper of the NextRail KC team will provide an overview of the expansion project and the proposed Transportation Development District that would provide local funding. She will ask for feedback on the plan. If you want to learn about the project in advance of the meeting, visit www.NextRailKC.com for more information.

Kathryn Golden, director of the first-ever Kansas City Porchfest, which is taking place right here in West Plaza, will present an update for this June 14 event. See page 2 for more details about PorchfestKC.

If you have not joined the WPNA or have not yet renewed your membership for 2014, you may do so at the meeting. We accept cash or check.

A raffle for a door prize (all 2014 members are eligible to enter) will end the meeting.

Please join us for the social half-hour with complimentary food and beverages at 6:30 p.m. ■

Smoke Detector Safety

by John Toms

I usually talk about crime prevention in our great little newsletter, but this is a different safety message that is important for all of us to hear. I am so tired of hearing that someone died in a fire and there were no working smoke detectors in the home. I contacted our local KCFD Fire Marshal, Floyd Peoples, who was helpful and shared more information than can be put into one article. This is the short version of what you need to know.

Working smoke detectors save lives.

There are now more homes with smoke detectors that don't work than homes without detectors at all. Poorly maintained units create a false sense of security. About one-third of homes with smoke detectors that experience fires have smoke detectors that aren't working, and hundreds of people die each year as a result.

Having a working smoke detector cuts your chance of dying nearly in half if you have a home fire. By properly placing and regularly testing and maintaining your detectors, you can ensure that they are in fact working and will alert you if a fire breaks out. Buy only those detectors that bear the mark of an independent testing laboratory. All tested and labeled smoke detectors offer adequate protection if they are properly installed and maintained.

Test your detectors to make sure they are working properly. If they are not, get them working or buy new ones ASAP.

If you have any questions regarding your smoke detectors or fire prevention, Chief Peoples can answer them. He is a busy guy, but he assured me he returns his calls as soon as he can. Reach him at:

Floyd Peoples, Chief Fire Marshal, KCFD
Office: 816-784-9100 ■

PorchFestKC Comes to West Plaza!

by Kathryn Golden

PorchFestKC is coming to the West Plaza! For those who were not at the last neighborhood meeting, here's a brief recap.

Modeled after similar events held in other cities—Ithaca, NY hosted the first American PorchFest in 2007 to celebrate community and older neighborhoods—PorchFestKC will celebrate West Plaza! For one afternoon, Saturday, June 14, a number of low-fi (meaning NOT LOUD) and acoustic bands will perform on many residents' porches, all located within walking distance of one another. From the sidewalk, fans can listen to multiple genres of music as they stroll the neighborhood.

Each porch will feature several different bands throughout the afternoon. Attendees will wander among porches at their own pace, perhaps even making a second (or third) round to hear different music on each pass.

We would love artists from other medias (e.g., painters, sculptors) to also share their work. Along with music-hosting porches, we're looking for homeowners willing to allow a pop-up gallery showing in their front yard. These would be located between musical stages, giving festival goers lots to see as they wander our awesome neighborhood.

PorchFestKC is a free, family-friendly, community event. The focus will be on music, the neighborhood, and community. There will be no alcohol sales. We hope you will join us. As a porch host. A musical act. A visual artist. A volunteer. Or as an attendee.

Want to Perform?

We are seeking bands interested in performing. We want solo, duo, or group acts who can perform for at least 50 minutes, are willing to play for tips, and who embrace the low-fi/acoustic focus of this event. If interested, please visit our website (PorchfestKC.com) and apply for consideration.

Want to Share Your Art?

We seek artists interested in a pop-up gallery opening. You will need to provide all setup for your show (table, easels). You may offer your work for sale. Your art should be family-friendly and can be any medium. Please visit our website and apply via the Bands section of the site.

Want to Host?

Visit our website and apply via the Porches page if you wish to host music or art. The guidelines (there are only a few) are outlined on the site.

Interested In:

Volunteering (pre- and event-day)?
Adopt(ing)-a-Porch?
Donating to or sponsoring PorchFestKC?

PorchFestKC.com
@PorchFestKC
Facebook.com/PorchFestKC

Visit our website today! PorchFestKC.com
Or call Kathryn Golden, 913-725-8020. ■



Americana . Roots
Alt-Folk . World
Singer-Songwriter
Old-Time Country
Folk-Rock . Bluegrass
Classical . Jazz
Acoustic Pop

June 14, 2014

PorchFestKC.com
Facebook.com/PorchFestKC
@PorchFestKC

One afternoon.
One neighborhood.
Multiple porches.
Dozens of bands.
One awesome time!
Grab your walking shoes!



INTERESTED IN:

Volunteering?
(pre- and event-day)

Adopt(ing)-a-Porch?

Donating or sponsoring
PorchFestKC?

Visit our website today!
PorchFestKC.com

Forks & Rakes by Stephanie Murrell

Recipe: 5-Star Shepherd's Pie

Shepherd's Pie has always been and still is a staple of traditional Irish cooking. It's a really easy but tasty recipe that the whole family will enjoy. Meat, vegetables, and mashed potatoes all in one dish!

Makes 6 Servings

Ingredients:

1 1/2 lbs ground lamb (or ground beef or turkey)
1/2 onion, diced
3 tbsp flour
1 1/4 cup beef broth
1 tsp salt
1/2 tsp black pepper
2 tbsp ketchup
1 tsp Worcestershire sauce
4 cups frozen mixed vegetables (peas, carrot, corn),
thawed and drained well
2 lbs russet potatoes, peeled, quartered
2 cloves garlic, minced
1/2 cup milk
1/2 stick (1/4 cup) butter
1 cup shredded Irish cheddar cheese (any cheddar is
fine)
salt and fresh ground black pepper to taste

Brown ground lamb and onion in large sauté pan over medium heat, breaking the meat into very small pieces as it cooks. Stir in flour and cook for 2 minutes. Stir in the broth, and once it's incorporated, add the salt, pepper, ketchup, Worcestershire sauce, and mixed vegetables. Cook, stirring occasionally, for 5 minutes. Transfer into a 13 x 9 casserole dish.

Add the potatoes and garlic to a saucepan, cover with cold water, and add a large pinch of salt. Bring to a boil, reduce heat to medium-low, and simmer until potatoes are tender, about 25 minutes. Drain very well, and add back to the saucepan. Add the milk and butter; mash the potatoes, then stir in the cheddar cheese. Season with salt and fresh ground black pepper to taste.

Cover the lamb mixture with the mashed potatoes and spread evenly with a fork. Bake in a preheated 375-degree oven for 25 minutes, or until golden. Allow to sit for 10 minutes before serving.

Delicious! ■

Spring Home Maintenance

Checklist

Spring is right around the corner, and it's time to celebrate the end of winter by getting out and doing a few chores around the yard and house.

Check for loose or leaky gutters. Make sure downspouts drain away from the foundation and are clear and free of debris.

Low areas in the yard or next to the foundation should be filled with compacted soil. Spring rains can cause yard flooding, which can lead to foundation flooding and damage.

Use a screwdriver to probe the wood trim around windows, doors, railings, and decks. Make repairs now before the spring rains do more damage to the exposed wood.

From the ground, examine roof shingles to see if any were lost or damaged during the winter. If your home has an older roof covering, you may want to start to budget for replacement.

Examine the exterior of the chimney for signs of damage. Have the flue cleaned and inspected by a certified chimney sweep.

Inspect concrete slabs for cracks. All exterior slabs should drain away from the home's foundation. Fill cracks with a concrete crack filler or silicone caulk. When weather permits, power-wash and then seal the concrete.

Remove firewood stored near the home. Firewood should be stored at least 18 inches off the ground at least 2 feet from the structure.

Check outside hose faucets for freeze damage. Turn the water on and place your thumb or finger over the opening. If you can stop the flow of water, it is likely the pipe inside the home is damaged and will need to be replaced. While you're at it, check the garden hose for dry rot.

Have a qualified heating and cooling contractor clean and service the outside unit of the air conditioning system. Clean coils operate more efficiently, and an annual service call will keep the system working at peak performance levels. Change interior filters on a regular basis.

Check your gas- and battery-powered lawn equipment to make sure it is ready for summer use. ■

Looking Back: The Flood of 1977

by Joe Montanari

Water is essential to life. Experts tell us we should drink at least a liter of water a day to stay healthy. As people in other parts of the world struggle to find adequate water resources, we may consider ourselves very lucky to live here in the Missouri Valley, where water is truly abundant.

Folks in Midtown weren't feeling so lucky on September 12, 1977, after an unusual weather pattern caused two massive thunderstorms to stall out directly over the Country Club Plaza. Beginning just after midnight and lasting until 6 a.m., the first storm filled Brush Creek from bank to bank. As dawn broke, folks went about their normal activities, and except for the heavy rain the night before, it seemed just like another Monday. That is, until about 8 o'clock that evening, when the sky opened up and the second storm struck with a vengeance.

I can remember looking out the front window of the little bungalow we rented at 4625 Genessee. Torrents of water roared down the street and turned the vacant lot next door into a lake. Hearing water running inside the house, I went down to the basement to find streams of water spouting in through the basement walls. Even though we lived on high ground, the hydrostatic pressure was so great that it literally forced the water through crevices in the stone foundation.

Realizing that we were experiencing a major event, my late wife Jo Ann and I put on our boots and raincoats, grabbed an umbrella, and headed for the corner at 47th. Looking down 47th Street to State Line, we saw cars stalled in the intersection with water up over the wheels. We hiked across the park to 48th, then east on 48th to the Plaza.

What we saw there was appalling. Cars parked along Ward Parkway were completely submerged. Brush Creek was out of its banks all the way north past 48th Street. Storefront windows on Ward Parkway and 48th Street were knocked out, and we saw furniture, mannequins, and store displays floating past. Shocked and thoroughly soaked, we returned home to a basement full of water, but a first floor that, fortunately, was high and dry, where we watched the TV news reports. The news got worse.

Brush Creek was different then, much narrower and much shallower, and it functioned like a narrow canyon. Constricted by the narrow passageways beneath the bridges, the roaring torrents of water had nowhere to go but up, and it did, like a tsunami, sweeping over the tops of the bridges at State Line, Roanoke, Wornall, Main, and Troost, carrying 25 people to their deaths in the swirling torrent. Property losses were huge, estimated at \$90 million then, equivalent to roughly \$350 million today.

As dawn broke the morning of the 13th, our beautiful Country Club Plaza looked like a war zone. Entire storefronts were missing. Wrecked cars and debris littered the streets as far as the eye could see.

One of the cars that didn't make it home the night before was a little brown Honda belonging to Julie Tenenbaum. As Julie headed home from an evening with her family, she drove through the rain into what looked like a puddle on the Mission Road bridge, just south of what was then 50 Highway. The "puddle" turned out to be more than a foot deep and rising, trapping Julie in her stalled car. Unable to open the door, Julie rolled down the window and crawled out, wading through knee-high water to a neighboring house on higher ground. She and several others lost their cars at the Mission Road bridge, but fortunately lived to tell about it.

Who could imagine that water raining from the sky could do so much damage? But more than 16 inches of rain fell that day. It's a day I will always remember.

For actual news reports, go to http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V_ew2bEKxw4

Next issue: What made the Plaza Flood happen, and could it happen again?

Sources: National Weather Service records; U.S. Dept of Commerce Natural Disaster Survey Report #77-2; The Kansas City Star; Wikipedia; and KMBC News. ■

Words to live by:

**Don't sweat
the petty stuff.
And don't pet
the sweaty stuff.**

NAs, HOAs, and the West Plaza Neighborhood Association

by Greg Madden

Ever so often I hear someone refer to the West Plaza Neighborhood Association as a “homeowners’ association.” It is not that! It is a neighborhood association, which is quite different in purpose, function, and affordability.

A Homeowners’ Association (also known as a “mandatory neighborhood association”), is generally formed when a neighborhood is first built. An HOA is a legal entity that is chartered in the property deeds issued to the original homeowners. It has the power to proscribe the behavior of the residents within its boundaries: it can legally force its homeowners to maintain their properties in ways that are beyond the requirements of the city’s codes. Many restrictive HOAs regulate everything from paint color to the appropriate times to fly an American flag. Moreover, HOAs can force its residents to pay annual fees.

As I said, the West Plaza Neighborhood Association is NOT an HOA. A formal definition of a neighborhood association is “an organization that represents all residents in the neighborhood and operates through an open, democratic process to improve or maintain the overall quality of life for all individuals within those boundaries. Membership is open to all the residents in the neighborhood but participation is optional. It has no legal power to require anything from residents.”

As a neighborhood association, the WPNA is a voluntary organization designed to foster a sense of community and pride in the neighborhood and create an environment in which neighbor helps neighbor. It is open to all and affordable. The association also provides members with “how to” information to resolve common issues, empowering its members to address issues they may have with municipalities, entities, and individuals. We can tell them who to call and what to do.

We also provide a network among residents so they can share ideas and tips. This newsletter and the meetings every other month form the core of the communication offered by WPNA. They provide important information as well as allow a forum for members to communicate with each other. In addition, we provide the West Plaza Watch on Facebook, a Facebook discussion group, and a website.

The newsletter is a “user’s manual” for the neighborhood. It’s a convenient way to find the services you need and to become better informed about the neighborhood. You also will find articles about issues that affect some or all of the neighborhood, designed to keep everyone in the neighborhood “in the loop.” Any member may submit an article to the editor to be considered for publication in the newsletter, either by mail or email (the contact information is found on page 7).

While similar neighborhood associations in Kansas City charge higher dues (e.g., \$40 per year), WPNA dues are only \$12 per household. Because of the support of neighborhood businesses (for instance, Print Tekk, who prints our newsletter six times per year without charge), the association can remain affordable to all residents. We also recently applied for and received a non-profit 501(c)(3) designation, which allows us to accept tax-deductible donations.

If you would like to become actively involved in your West Plaza Neighborhood Association, I encourage you to attend the next neighborhood meeting or contact us through the website or Facebook. You will learn more about important events and issues that affect us all, you will meet your neighbors, and you will get more enjoyment from living in the West Plaza. ■

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

Have you Connected with the Facebook Watch Page?

The West Plaza Watch Facebook page administered by the WPNA now has more than 500 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 “other” inbox. After you respond to the message, you will be admitted. ■

City-Wise

.....
: The scoreboard at Arrowhead Stadium, home
: of the Kansas City Chiefs, was the first to
: transmit instant replay.
:



(Stone oven pizza)

1209 W. 47th Street KCMO
816-401-4483

Dinner: Monday-Saturday 5-9:30

Lunch: Tuesday-Friday 11-2

Closed Sunday

Don't Wear It Anymore?

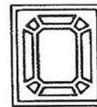
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**NOTICE! WPNA Membership runs on the calendar year, from January 1 through December 31.
If you have not renewed for 2014, please do it now.**

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

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

Membership Feral Cat Program

[March-April 2014]

2014 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: March 18, July 15, September 16, November 18.
Annual Picnic & Spring Cleanup: Saturday, May 17
Yard Sales: Saturday, June 7
PorchFestKC: Saturday, June 14
Fall Cleanup: Saturday, October 11

Feral Cat Issues?

Contact Sharon Martin
816-931-1194
Feral_WPNA@kc.rr.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:

Business card	\$25	Half page	\$50
Quarter page	\$35	Full page	\$100

Display advertising rates for non-members: Add \$20.



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West Plaza Watch

Email:
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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 WPNA 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.

<p>AAA BUYS HOUSES 913-832-5105</p> <p>ACT II 1507 W. 47th St. 816-531-7572</p> <p>AUTOBAHN MOTORS 1111 Westport Road alex@autobahn-usa.com</p> <p>BETTER HOMES & GARDENS REAL ESTATE Steve Tate 913-488-3770 State@kansascityhomes.com</p> <p>BOOZEFISH WINE BAR 1511 Westport Road 816-561-5995 www.boozefish.com</p> <p>CATHY'S CLIP & CURL SALON 4301 Wyoming St. 816-561-2331</p> <p>DOGS' WORLD OF FUN 1220 West 31st Street 816-931-5822</p> <p>EYE CARE OPTICAL 816-753-2020 4233 Roanoke Road www.eyecare-optical.com</p> <p>FINAL DRAFT SECRETARIAL SERVICE 4401 Genessee St. 816-931-2276 www.Finaldraftsecretarialservice.com</p> <p>GARY JENKINS ATTORNEY AT LAW 816-931-3535 jenkslaw@yahoo.com</p> <p>HAIR STYLE 4500 Bell St. 816-531-4545</p> <p>HOTEL SORELLA COUNTRY CLUB PLAZA 901 West 48th Place 816-480-4444</p> <p>JENNINGS TREE & LAWN CARE 4504 State Line Road 816-931-3399</p> <p>JOHNNY JO'S PIZZERIA 1209 West 47th Street 816-401-4483 Johnnyjospizza@gmail.com</p> <p>KANSAS CITY CHIROPRACTIC 4510 Belleview 816-753-4600 Kansascitychiropractic.com</p>	<p>KANSAS CITY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS 816-808-2556</p> <p>KATHE KAUL ESTATE SALES 816-960-1947</p> <p>KURT AARONS, DDS 4411 Belleview Ave. 816-531-2070</p> <p>LAW OFFICES OF CHARLES W. GOTSCHALL 4700 Belleview, Ste. 215 816-561-2300 www.lawyers-kc.com</p> <p>LAW OFFICES OF KRIGEL & KRIGEL 4550 Belleview 816-285-6012 Krigelandkrigel.com</p> <p>LIAM PORTER STATE FARM INSURANCE 1207 West 47th Street 816-753-4334 www.sfplazaagent.com</p> <p>LOTUS SKIN CARE STUDIO 3900 Pennsylvania 816-561-0555</p> <p>LUCIA'S 4806 Belleview 913-638-8615</p> <p>MARSH'S SUNFRESH MARKET 4001 Mill St. 816-931-1639</p> <p>MONTANARI FINE ART JEWELERS 4810 Belleview Ave. 816-531-0750 www.montanarijewelers.com</p> <p>OLEANDER AESTHETICS 1703 W. 45th Street 816-974-3338 www.oleanderaesthetics.com</p> <p>ORGANIZE ME 816-529-6901 www.organizemeinkc.com</p> <p>POLSINELLI PC 900 W. 48th Place 816-753-1000</p> <p>PRINT TEKK PRINTING & MAILING 4312 Terrace 816-931-4122</p> <p>SANTA FE INVESTMENTS Steve Rothstein & Amanda Rothstein 816-753-2600</p>	<p>SCANDANAVIAN COOP 2401 Summit St. 816-421-1004 Scancoop@yahoo.com</p> <p>SCOTT BURNETT Jackson County Legislator Burnett.scott@gmail.com</p> <p>SHANNON BASHAM, BA, E-RYT www.shanyogakc.com shanyogakc@gmail.com 816-810-3623</p> <p>SHEEHAN'S IRISH IMPORTS 1412 Westport Road 816-561-4480 www.sheehanirish.com</p> <p>SHELTON TRAVEL SERVICE 4800 Belleview Ave. 816-753-4888 www.sheltontravel.com</p> <p>SNYDER HOME REMODELING 913-248-8945 info@snyderhomes.biz</p> <p>STEVEN C. MINGOS DDS & ASSOC 4746 Belleview Ave. 816-531-8740 www.drmingos.com</p> <p>SUNSHINE FLOWERS 4509 Rainbow Blvd. 913-384-5034</p> <p>SYNTAX LAND DESIGN, LLC 816-309-0655 Hilarynoonan57@gmail.com</p> <p>URBAN PRAIRIE ARCHITECTURAL COLLABORATIVE 4523 Mercier 816-304-7416</p> <p>VALLEY VIEW BANK 4550 Belleview Ave. 913-381-3311</p> <p>VAN TRUST REAL ESTATE 4900 Main Street 816-569-1441</p> <p>WEST PLAZA NAILS, SALON & SPA 4804 Belleview Ave. 816-931-0303</p> <p>YOUR BUSINESS NAME HERE! Support WPNA, the organization that supports the West Plaza!</p>
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