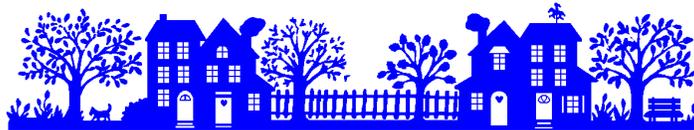


# WEST PLAZA

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



### Mark Your Calendar

#### Spring Cleanup

#### Saturday, May 31, 8 a.m. to ?

Bring your yard waste and large household refuse to the Spring Cleanup, a free service co-sponsored by WPNA and KCMO. One dumpster for yard waste and one for household trash will be parked on Wyoming, just south of 47th Street and east of Westwood Park. **You must be a resident of the West Plaza to participate.** Volunteers will help you unload, and we will accept items until the dumpsters are full. Come early to ensure space for your items, but in consideration of the volunteers, do not arrive before 8 a.m., and do not leave your items outside the bins.

Scrapper Roger Argeropolous (816-521-8592) will be on-site to accept your metal items. He will also come to your residence upon request.

We reserve the right to limit quantities. No hazardous waste (including paint), computer equipment, or tires. No commercial ventures, please.

A new service will be offered at this year's event. A truck from Cross-Lines will be present to accept your gently used, working items. Note what you CAN and CANNOT bring for Cross-Lines:

**YES:** New and used furniture, house wares, clothing and accessories, shoes, and large and small working appliances. All donations must be in good working condition with no need of repair.

**NO:** Computers and computer equipment, mattresses and box springs, office furniture, and weight equipment. ■

### Who Is Cross-Lines?

Since 1963, the mission of Cross-Lines has been to provide people affected by poverty with basic services and opportunities that encourage self-confidence and self-sufficiency. Located in Armourdale, a low-income neighborhood in north-east Kansas City, Kansas, Cross-Lines is com-

### Annual Picnic, Saturday, May 17, Noon at Westwood Park

Gather at the shelter house in Westwood Park to enjoy old friends and make new ones. Musical entertainment will be provided by...someone (we don't know who, yet). The WPNA will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, potato chips, cold drinks, ice cream, and dishes. Bring your own specialty side dish or a dessert to share.

Raffle prizes have been donated by our loyal and generous business members. **You must be a current member to enter the raffle**, so be sure you have renewed your membership for 2014. There's a membership form on page 7, and you can also renew or join at the picnic. Bring the kids, a side dish, and a lawn chair. Friends and relatives are welcome, too!

**If you can help with either the picnic or the cleanup, call Julie Tenenbaum at 816-931-2276. Those who volunteer at the picnic will be entered in their own special raffle for a fabulous door prize! ■**

mitted to providing the community with essential needs such as food, clothing, and rent and utility assistance. Many Cross-Lines participants have recently experienced job loss, a cut in hours, or a medical crisis causing absence from work. Preventing and ending homelessness, while promoting family stability and self-sufficiency, are key ingredients of Cross-Lines' services.

All donations go directly to the Cross-Lines thrift store. Donated items are either sold or given away through their clothing voucher program. Each and every dollar raised in the thrift store goes directly back into their programs and services that serve the community.

If you have questions about donations or are interested in more information about Cross-Lines, call 913-281-3504 and ask for Ashley. ■

## PorchFestKC on Saturday, June 14!

by Kathryn Golden

PorchFestKC is just over a month away, and things are rolling along toward a successful first-year neighborhood event. There has been a lot of interest from neighbors within the targeted portion of West Plaza (and beyond) to host bands, and an awesome response from musicians from all over Kansas City and as far away as St. Louis and Lawrence.

The stories behind the bands are as diverse as the musical styles. There are friends who played in a high school band in the '70s, reconnected at a reunion, and have rejoined to play the old songs. We will have a stay-at-home father from West Plaza who will be performing on his own porch, excited to "get out of the house" and perform for a broader audience. There are regionally recognized bands who have performed at SxSW and people who rarely perform in public. We will have classical music, folk, jazz, singer-songwriter, world, and pop music, delivered up and down the streets of our 'hood.

By the time you read this, we will have confirmed the participation of the selected bands and porches. We encourage porch hosts to think creatively about how you might make this first year special. How about setting up chairs on your front lawn to share with festival attendees? Or maybe have a friends-and-family section just for you? Porch banners? Make it special and make it fun!

We encourage you to park in your own driveway, making room for friends, family, and musicians to

find parking. We are working toward a food truck presence. And we could use more visual artists and craftsmen—if you know anyone interested in a pop-up gallery, please send them to the website (see below)!

We need more volunteers to distribute flyers and be event-day block ambassadors. Please register online if you've not already done so. Closer to the event, a full lineup of porches will be on the website, with printable maps to help you chart your afternoon.

PorchFestKC.com  
@PorchFestKC  
Facebook.com/PorchFestKC  
Kathryn Golden, 913-725-8020

Mark your calendar: June 14, 1 to 5 pm – and spread the word. It's going to be a unique afternoon and one to be proud of! Go, West Plaza! ■

## West Plaza Yard Sales, Saturday, June 7

If you're having a yard sale this summer, do it on the same day as your neighbors and maximize your exposure! The WPNA will advertise the neighborhood sales on [Craigslistkc.com](http://Craigslistkc.com) and *The Kansas City Star* (both print and online).

We'll also provide a flyer showing the addresses of the sales and what can be found at each. To include your sale in the flyer, and to receive a yard sign for the day to promote your sale, contact Julie Tenenbaum (816-931-2276 or [jatkc@aol.com](mailto:jatkc@aol.com)) no later than Friday, May 30, with a general description of what you'll

Continued on p. 4



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 & Ed O'Donnell

### Simply Delicious Asparagus Risotto

Yield: Serves 4

Prep time: 30 minutes

#### Ingredients

4 cups vegetable or chicken broth  
2 tablespoons olive oil  
4 green onions, chopped  
1 cup Arborio or sushi rice  
1 pound asparagus, ends trimmed and cut into 2-in. pieces  
2 tablespoons unsalted butter  
1/2 cup grated parmesan cheese

#### Preparation

In a small saucepan, bring broth to a simmer. Heat oil in a large pot. Add onions and rice and cook, stirring, until rice is browned, about 5 minutes. Stir in broth, 1/2 cup at a time, and cook, stirring constantly until almost all the broth is absorbed before adding more, until rice is al dente, about 20 minutes; add hot water if you need more liquid. About 5 minutes before rice is done, add asparagus, butter, and parmesan and cook until asparagus is tender-crisp. ■

### Spring Cleaning!

#### Homemade Lemon-Scented All-Purpose Cleaner

Making your own cleaning supplies is cheaper than buying them, healthier for you, and better for the environment. This all-natural, homemade disinfectant will have your kitchen counters gleaming in no time. Plus, the fresh lemon scent will perfume your kitchen beautifully.

#### Ingredients

1/4 cup white vinegar  
2 Tablespoons baking soda  
4 cups hot water  
1/2 lemon

#### Instructions

In a bucket or 4-cup Pyrex measuring cup, combine vinegar, baking soda, and hot water. Squeeze in the juice from half a lemon, then drop the rind in as well to infuse the cleaner. Stir well to dissolve the baking soda and allow to cool. Remove the lemon rind. Transfer into a spray bottle or squeeze bottle and label clearly. ■

Recipe by Simple Bites at <http://www.simplebites.net/spring-cleaning-the-kitchen-homemade-lemon-scented-cleaner/>

### Garden Report: Dogs, Spring Cleaning, and a Soaker Hose

Spring at last, and time for gardening! This year, the cleaning involves more than removing leaves and planting. I am happy to announce we will be installing a watering system!

Before the trafficway island was turned into the West Plaza Garden (located at the intersection of Roanoke, Jarboe, and 46th Street), a lot of people let their dogs use the space. Since 2008 when the soil was first tilled, we have not had a dog waste problem. But we do now. Over the winter, dog owners started taking their pets to the garden and failed to pick up after them. This has left dog waste that volunteers should not have to remove, but we will. Past readers of my column know about the marauding rabbits, and I don't mind if someone's dog chases the bunnies away. But residents need to pick up after their canines.

Saturday, April 26, 9:00 a.m. until finished (noon at the latest), we will hold our Annual Garden Clean-Up to rake leaves, remove dead plant material, and lay soaker hose. There will be three lengths of hose: one on either side of the central section of the garden and one along the western side. A water manifold will allow us to water all areas at once. In case you were wondering...PIAC funds paid for the water connection, and Kansas City Parks & Recreation will be paying the water bill.

Saturday, May 10, 9:00 a.m. until finished (noon at the latest) is Dig and Plant Day. We will be digging up a dying butterfly bush, along with last year's sunflower stumps. The butterfly bush will be replaced by a black chokecherry bush. Annuals to be planted are marigolds, impatiens, strawflower, carrot, basil, and parsley. We don't need to plant sunflower seeds, since so many have already germinated.

We should have a beautiful garden this year, even if we have a dry summer. But, please, dog owners, pick up after your pooch! ■

#### City-Wise

By 1949, 86 factories were manufacturing garments in KC. It was said that one in seven American women wore clothing made here.

## Looking Back: The Flood of 1977,

### Part 2 by Joe Montanari

In Part 1 of this story, we recalled the Plaza Flood of 1977, a disaster that claimed 25 lives and destroyed property valued at over \$90 million (equal to \$350 million today). At the time, forecasters from the National Weather Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers experts referred to it as a “500-year flood,” a magnitude experienced only once every 500 years. The first reliable weather data collected in Kansas City was in 1888, a few years after President Grant had established the NWS, so how do we know it was a 500-year flood? We don’t. While the weather conditions that produced the flood were unusual, there is no reason to suppose that the same conditions hadn’t happened before and won’t happen again.

Brush Creek is 10½ miles long, meandering from 80th and Lamar in Overland Park, running through the Plaza from Ward Parkway and State Line east to Hardesty and Blue Banks Avenue, where it flows into the Blue River. The creek’s name is apt, because before the Plaza shopping district was built on its north bank in the 1920s, it wound through a heavily wooded, marshy thicket. Knowing that the creek was prone to frequent flooding, Plaza developer J. C. Nichols petitioned the city to pave the creek bed to confine it to an artificial concrete channel. This plan was particularly appealing to “Boss Tom” Pendergast, who coincidentally owned the Ready-Mixed Concrete Company. Completed in 1932, the newly channelized creek functioned well for more than 40 years, carrying storm water off the Plaza streets and leaving shoppers high and dry, even during the destructive Missouri River flood of 1951.

By 1977, things were different. Overland Park, Leawood, Prairie Village, and Roeland Park were all fully built up and paved over. Every square foot of paved or roofed surface area no longer absorbed rain water, but instead shed it into the storm drains, which in turn, emptied into Brush Creek. Before 1977, it was not unusual to see the creek’s concrete channel fill up during a heavy rainfall, but the creek never escaped its banks until that fateful September day.

When the sky opened up on the evening of September 11, Brush Creek, already full of rushing water from the night before, was simply too shallow and too narrow to handle any more runoff. Constricted by the narrow passageways, the creek water had nowhere to go but up and over the bridges, sweeping cars and drivers into the raging waters below.

In the aftermath, Kansas City officials realized it was only a matter of time before another disaster was likely to occur. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recommended that all the bridges spanning the creek be replaced by new ones with larger openings beneath them. Then, the creek bed should be lowered 15 to 20 feet and widened for the entire length of the creek to allow for a greater volume of water. The estimated cost for the first phase through the Plaza area was more than \$150 million (nearly \$600 million today). How on earth would the City manage to fund such an enormous undertaking? Fortunately, the Kansas City Parks Department owned the land on both sides of the creek, qualifying the project as a public works flood control project that could be partly funded by the Federal government. The Corps of Engineers would do the utilitarian part of the work, and the City would finance the landscaping and beautification part, only 10% of the total cost.

The flood control phase (starting at Roanoke Road through the Plaza) was completed by 1996, but the remaining stretch from Woodland eastward was still on the drawing board when another tragedy occurred. In October of that year, flood waters overtopped the Prospect Avenue bridge, this time sweeping seven more Kansas Citians to their deaths. A renewed effort, spurred by a \$52 million bond issue, accelerated the completion of flood control measures.

Today, Brush Creek winds eastward over a waterfall into a series of descending pools, with a scenic hiking/jogging/biking trail alongside, landscaped with fountains, ornamental plantings, and lighting, and spanned by ten beautiful bridges. Can the creek ever flood again? Nobody knows for sure, but it isn’t likely, as the channel can now carry more than four times the volume of water it originally did. Once a swamp plagued by flash floods, Brush Creek is now an asset, thanks to the best deal the taxpayers ever made.

*Sources: The Kansas City Star, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and Wikipedia. ■*

## West Plaza Yard Sales (Continued from p. 2)

be selling, your address, email address, and phone number. The flyer will be emailed to you in pdf format on Friday, June 6, so you can print them and distribute them to your customers.

All West Plaza residents are invited to participate in this event, whether you’re a member of WPNA or not. ■

## Exciting Things Are Happening at the Westport Library!



If you haven't been to the Westport Library lately, you're missing out on a neighborhood gem. Lots of new items, a spruced-up interior, and a knowledgeable staff are ready to make your library experience the best one you've ever had.

Many of the improvements and changes are thanks to the new branch manager, Megan Garrett. "We want to be one of the community's cornerstones for information and help—in other words, your one-stop information shop," says Megan.

Besides all the traditional items and programs the library already offers, services have expanded to include online streaming of movies, music, and audio books, digital magazine checkouts, and more. In the near future, the Westport branch will even offer Google Fiber to its patrons.

Whether you need access to Wi-Fi, require assistance getting your tablet set up to read library e-books, want to take a computer class, are looking for a fun story time for your little one, or want to attend a Westport Historical Society program, it is all available in one place — the Westport Library at 118 Westport Road (phone: 816-701-3488).

Visit the library today and experience everything they have to offer! ■

## Please Pick Up After Your Pet

The open letter below is from dog owners at HOA.com. It is a good reminder for this time of year.

Dear Dog Owners,

It doesn't take much to remind us that we have pets in our community. In fact, if you don't watch your step, you're likely to step in one such reminder! Besides being unsightly and smelly, animal waste can be hazardous to the health of our children who play in the community and other pets. One of the most common forms of disease transmission between dogs is through fecal matter.

When walking your dog, remember that it should be leashed. **Also, it is important to immediately clean up after your pet.** Take a baggie along with you to pick up waste, and then dispose of it properly.

By taking a few simple steps to clean up after your pet, you can contribute not only to the beautification of our community, but also towards the elimination of one of the most irritating nuisances.

Thank you for your cooperation. ■

## Greg's Calendar

by Greg Madden

Now that warmer weather has arrived, it's time to get out and about and enjoy the events our midtown area offers:

### The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art New Program Series

The World's Fair Returns, April 4-May 16, 7 pm, Gallery 215, FREE.  
Roads of Arabia, April 25-July 6, Tickets required.

The Civil War and American Art, May 16, 7 pm, Atkins Auditorium, FREE, Tickets required.

### 26th Annual Sabates Eye Center's Trolley Run, April 27

Race begins at 75th and Wornall Road. Benefits the Children's Center for the Visually Impaired (CCVI). The largest timed four-mile run in the nation!

**Cinderella**, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, May 9-18.

**Mother Nature Reads** (for kids), 10 am every Saturday at Lakeside Nature Center, 4701 E Gregory Blvd., 816-513-8960.

**Westport Farmers Market**, Wednesday, May 1, 4:30 -7:30 pm. ■



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## Springtime Safety for Pets

by April Porter

Spring has sprung, and our thoughts inevitably turn to spring cleaning and home improvement projects. But the balmy weather can prove not-so-sunny for curious pets. Before you embark on chores or revelry, take inventory of potential hazards for your furry friend.

**Easter Treats and Decorations.** Keep Easter lilies and candy bunnies in check—chocolate goodies are toxic to cats, dogs, and ferrets, and lilies can be fatal. Cats love to nibble on plastic grass, which can lead to an obstructed digestive tract, severe vomiting, and dehydration.

**Buckle Up.** While dogs love to feel the wind on their faces, allowing them to ride in the bed of a pick-up truck or stick their heads out of car windows is dangerous. Flying debris and insects can cause inner ear or eye injuries and lung infections, and abrupt stops or turns can cause major injury. Pets in cars should always be secured in a crate or by a seatbelt harness designed for them.

**Spring Cleaning & Improvement Projects.** Keep all cleaners and chemicals out of your pets' way. Almost all commercially sold cleaning products contain chemicals that are harmful to pets. Products such as paints, mineral spirits, and solvents can be toxic and cause severe irritation or chemical burns. Read and follow label directions for proper use and storage. Also, be cautious of physical hazards, including nails, staples, insulation, blades, and power tools. Consider confining your dog or cat to a designated room during home improvement projects.

**Garden Safety.** Fertilizers, insecticides, and herbicides keep lawns healthy, but their ingredients can be fatal if your pet ingests them. Store these poisonous products in out-of-the-way places and follow label instructions carefully.

**Poisonous Plants.** Many popular springtime plants—including rhododendron and azaleas—are highly toxic to pets and can be fatal if eaten.

**Pesky Critters.** Make sure your pet is on year-round heartworm preventive medication, as well as a flea and tick control program.

**Out and About.** Warmer weather means more trips to the park, longer walks, and more chances for your pet to wander off. Make sure your dog or

## Car Safety...Again

by John Toms

We and our neighbors to the north in Volker have recently had too many cars broken into and items taken. From what I can tell from the posts of our Facebook Watch friends, it appears these crimes are occurring in the wee hours of the morning, around 3 or 4. If your car is broken into, report the incident to the police, even if you decide not to report it to your insurance company. This will assist the KCPD in determining what areas are experiencing car break-in activity and what type of proactive policing they will take.

Taking these actions will reduce your chances of becoming a victim:

- Always remove the keys, roll up the windows, and lock the car. Any valuable items that can be removed should be taken with you.
- If your car is stored in a carport or parked near your house, leave exterior lights on (front and back) throughout the night. Install a motion detector light near the vehicle. The light will be off routinely but will come on if the car is approached. A motion detector is a good psychological deterrent because a person who sees a light come on often assumes that someone has seen them.
- Consider adding a car alarm system, but remember to be neighborly and respond to the alarm promptly should it be set off. Look for a motion detector system in which the sensitivity of the detector can be adjusted or switched off when needed. Also consider getting one with the "no start" feature, which does not allow the car to start if it is entered without deactivating the alarm system with the remote.

The sound of breaking glass may mean a car break-in is occurring. Be sure to look in the direction of the sound and observe as much as you can so you can provide detailed information to the police when reporting the incident. ■

cat has a microchip and wears a tag imprinted with your home address and phone number.

If you suspect your pet has come in contact with or ingested a poisonous substance, contact your vet or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at 888-426-4435. ■

Source: [aspca.org](http://aspca.org)



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Limit 1 per new customer. Expires August 31, 2014.

## Don't Wear It Anymore?

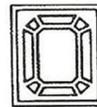
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**NOTICE! WPNA Membership runs on the calendar year, from January 1 through December 31.  
If you have not renewed for 2014, please do it now.**

## 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](http://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

[May-June 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: July 15, September 16, November 18  
West Plaza Garden Cleanup: Saturday, May 10, 8 am  
Annual Picnic: Saturday, May 17, Noon  
Spring Cleanup: Saturday, May 31 (8 a.m.)  
Yard Sales: Saturday, June 7 (start times vary)  
PorchFestKC: Saturday, June 14, 1-5 p.m.  
Fall Cleanup: Saturday, October 11 (8 a.m.)

### 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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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
Quarter page	\$35	Full page	\$100

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



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### Contact the WPNA

**Website:**  
[www.WestPlaza.org](http://www.WestPlaza.org)

**Facebook:**  
West Plaza Neighborhood Association-Discussion Group  
West Plaza Watch

**Email:**  
[wpnakc@gmail.com](mailto:wpnakc@gmail.com)

**U.S. Mail:**  
P. O. Box 32826  
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## 2014 WPNA Business Members

Please support the businesses that serve and support your neighborhood.

\*New Member

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.

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