WEST PLAZA

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



Mark Your Calendar ☑

Upcoming General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, November 17, 2015, 7-8 p.m.
Social Half-Hour begins at 6:30
Immanuel Lutheran Church
1700 Westport Road
Guest Speaker: Jim Ready, Manager,
Regulated Industries Division, Neighborhood
and Housing Services Department

Because several areas within our residential area are zoned for commercial business, liquor licensing is a subject of great importance to West Plaza. The policies of an establishment with a liquor license can have a positive or negative impact on the quality of life for the surrounding residents. Our guest speaker at this meeting will tell us all about liquor licenses: how one is obtained, how the rules are enforced, and under what circumstances a license can be revoked. Come learn how the city manages this issue.

If you have not joined the WPNA or have not yet renewed your membership for the coming year, you may do so at the meeting. Household memberships are \$15; business memberships are \$25. WPNA bumper stickers, t-shirts, and tote bags will also be available at the meeting.

A raffle will end the meeting. All 2015-2016 members are eligible to enter. ■

Volunteers Needed!

The WPNA needs a few people who are willing to deliver newsletters every other month.

If you are interested in helping with deliveries, call Harold Scott 913-980-6413 or Dennis Walter 816-588-8304

Thank you!

Man, that Year Went Fast! It's Time to Renew Your Membership

It seems like just yesterday we were asking you to renew your membership for 2015, and here it is, almost 2016.

Please use the form on page 7 to renew your membership now. For the small amount of \$15 (household) or \$25 (business) per calendar year, you can help the WPNA in its mission to keep the neighborhood a vibrant, safe, and friendly place to live. All of our programs and services point in the direction of communication among neighbors, safety in the neighborhood, and beauty in our surroundings.

We have periodically published a long, long list of good things the association does for West Plaza, which is detailed on our website; see page 6 for a short version, and please consider renewing. Homeowners, renters, and businesses are all welcome to join. ■

Your WPNA Volunteer Board

The West Plaza Neighborhood Association is led by a 10-member Board of Directors, which meets monthly to create and manage the many programs and projects that make West Plaza a strong and vibrant neighborhood.

PRESIDENT: Joe Montanari

VP & NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Julie Tenenbaum

TREASURER: Marlene Toms

SECRETARY: Stephanie Murrell

MEMBERSHIP: Greg Madden

AT LARGE DIRECTORS:
April Porter

Harold Scott Steve Tate John Toms Dennis Walter

Any of the directors may be contacted through the website, www.WestPlaza.org.

Looking Back: F.X. Aubry

by Joe Montanari

Many an interesting "character" has inhabited Westport from time to time, not the least of whom was a fellow named Francois Xavier Aubry. French Canadian by birth, Aubry arrived here from St. Louis in 1846 to seek his fortune hauling freight down the Santa Fe Trail. Aubry was so energetic and ambitious that he amazed his competitors by making two trips per season. One day, while discussing just how long it ought to take to cover the 775-mile journey, Aubry made the preposterous claim that he could ride alone on horseback from Santa Fe to Independence in eight days. He then wagered \$5,000 that he could do it, as long as he could buy additional horses as needed along the way. Aubry left Santa Fe and arrived in Independence seven days and ten hours later, having remounted twice. To prove he had actually run the entire race, Aubry brought back a copy of the Santa Fe Republican announcing his departure.

Disappointed with their first wager, the parties who lost the \$5,000 challenged Aubry to make the same trip in six days, this time for \$10,000. According to an article appearing in a booklet published in 1912 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail, "It was the best season of the year, there were no rains, the grass was good, and the Trail as hard as a pavement. Aubry had the same liberty to remount himself as often as he could buy a horse that he preferred to his own; he was not permitted to arrange relays or posts-horses in advance. He started out from Santa Fe on a Sunday; all he had with him to eat was a little dried beef, expecting to get food at the stage stations along the Trail.

"The following Saturday afternoon, he rode into the public square at Independence, winning the race by five hours. He was just five days and nineteen hours riding the 775 miles, and had used eleven horses. He had two skirmishes with the Indians and had been chased by them at the Cimarron crossing of the Arkansas, and again at Pawnee Rock. He escaped, however, with nothing worse than an arrow through his arm. When he slipped from the saddle at Independence, he had not slept a wink for fifty-six hours. Bystanders asserted that he was asleep the instant he touched the ground. Aubrey was carried into the hotel and put to bed, and did not open his eyes again until Monday about two

o'clock. He won \$15,000 on these two races, and in the last one made a record for long distance riding never surpassed." While no one knows for sure, Aubry's races may have inspired Alexander Majors to start the Pony Express, using fast horses to deliver the mail.

Continuing his freighting career, Aubrey always sought a shorter or more favorable route. In 1851, he discovered an alternate route to Cimarron, reducing the distance by 52 miles. It became known as the Aubry Cutoff. In 1854, in an Albuquerque saloon, Aubry engaged in a dispute with a local politician and newspaper publisher, Richard H. Weightman. Aubry's gun misfired, and Weightman stabbed him to death. He is buried in Santa Fe's Rosaria Cemetery.

After his death, Missouri newspapers published an account of Aubry's final journeys, which spawned interest in a railroad along the 35th parallel. Eventually, the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad was built mostly along the route Aubry had explored. Fort Aubrey in Hamilton County, Kansas, was built in a spot Aubry had recommended. Aubrey Peak, a mountain southwest of Flagstaff, Arizona, and Aubrey Valley, near Prescott, are named for F.X. Aubry, but not without misspelling his name by adding an e, perhaps to make it a little more "English."

Sources: Westport 1812-1912, Franklin Hudson Publishing Co.; Wikipedia. ■

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Use the West Plaza Watch FB Page!

by Gary Jenkins, Former KCPD

Back in the late 1980s, my Tactical Squad was assigned to flood the West Plaza area because of a crime spree by one suspect. When we gathered all available intelligence, we found clues about this suspect from other attempted crimes, from prowler reports, and by talking to residents. This intelligence allowed us to narrow the suspect's description, mode of transportation, and habits. The suspect was eventually arrested.

The West Plaza Watch Facebook page is a tool to gather and broadcast these same types of clues immediately and shortcut the bureaucratic process. When my phone screen notifies me that John Toms has posted, I look immediately. When I hear a lot of sirens, see police cars prowling, or hear possible gunshots, I look at the Watch FB page.

Recently, I was victimized myself. I immediately posted the suspect's physical and vehicle description. I see folks posting home security camera videos. I see folks posting possible suspect descriptions. When the aggressive magazine folks hit, I learn about their tactics and act accordingly. Posting on the West Plaza Watch Facebook page provides valuable information for your neighbors.

Remember, call 911 first, then post on the West Plaza Watch FB page. ■

Editor's Note: Gary Jenkins is a neighbor, a lawyer, an app creator, and a true crime podcast producer and host. You can learn more about him at Gangland-wire.com or Lifedocumentaries.com.



A sneak peek inside the newly renovated Swinney school building, now known as West Hill. For general information, call Chip Walsh, 816-808-2556. For leasing information, call Zac Nichols, 816-944-9323. You may also visit Westhillliving.com.

Use the West Plaza Watch FB Page!

by John Toms

Although West Plaza has a very low crime problem in relation to how many people live and work within our boundaries, it's time again to talk about security and crime prevention.

According to the West Plaza neighborhood map on our website, our eastern boundary line goes to 47th Street and Jefferson, south to Ward Parkway; it then follows Ward Parkway to Jarboe Street. In that area alone, there are many businesses which create a larger daytime population. Crimes happening in this area where many businesses are located affects the crime statistics of the entire West Plaza neighborhood.

We, as neighbors, need to be aware and call 911 when we see or hear anything out of the ordinary. After that, using the West Plaza Watch page on Facebook is helpful in getting the word out to each other about crime or suspicious activity. Just last week, we were made aware of persistent magazine salespeople knocking on doors and refusing to leave porches. A neighbor called 911 and was given the information that a city license is required for door-to-door solicitation. He told others via the Watch page. There are roughly 1,030 members on the Watch page, which is a lot of "eyes & ears" reporting suspicious activity. They are to be commended. Keep up the good work! If you're not on the Watch, see the box on this page for instructions about how to join. ■

Editor's Note: John Toms is a long-time member of the WPNA Board of Directors. He is our safety specialist.

Have You Connected with the West Plaza Watch Facebook Page?

The West Plaza Watch Facebook page administered by the WPNA now has more than 1,000 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. ■

FORKS & RAKES by Stephanie Murrell

Roasted Chicken with Sage Pan Sauce – 5 stars!

Prep 15 minutes; cook 10 minutes; roast 30-35 Yield: 4 chicken breasts, 1 cup sauce, 4 servings

Ingredients

4 bone-in chicken breasts (about 2 1/2 pounds)

1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper

1/4 teaspoon salt

2 tablespoons olive oil

1 tablespoon snipped fresh sage

6 shallots, peeled, halved or quartered lengthwise

3/4 cup reduced-sodium chicken broth

1/4 cup dry white wine

2 tablespoons butter, softened

2 teaspoons Dijon-style mustard

12 -20 small sage leaves

Directions

Trim chicken of excess skin or fat. Season the chicken with pepper and salt. In a 12-inch castiron or other heavy oven-going skillet, heat olive oil over medium-high heat. Add chicken, skin side down, and cook for 3 minutes or until skin is lightly browned. Turn chicken over; sprinkle with snipped sage.

Place skillet in oven and roast uncovered for 15 minutes. Remove skillet from oven. Carefully add shallots and 1/4 cup of the chicken broth to skillet. Return skillet to oven and roast uncovered for 15 to 20 minutes more or until chicken is no longer pink (170 degrees).

Transfer chicken and shallots to a plate or dish and cover to keep warm.

Add remaining 1/2 cup broth and wine to skillet and return to heat. Bring to boiling. Boil gently, uncovered, for 2 to 3 minutes or until reduced by about half. Remove skillet from heat.

Transfer chicken to four dinner plates. Return shallots and any collected juices to skillet. Add butter, mustard, and sage leaves to skillet; stir until butter melts. Immediately spoon sauce over chicken and serve. ■

CityWise

In the 1970s, the Kansas City mob was involved in a gangland war over control of the River Quay entertainment district. Three buildings were bombed, and several gangsters were killed.

Fall Checklist for Your Home

As the weather turns colder, it's time to button up your house for the winter. Here are some items for your to-do list:

- **Get your mind in the gutters.** Inspect and clean gutters and downspouts.
- Button up your overcoat. Seal gaps and cracks around windows and doors with weather-stripping and caulk.
- Get on top of roof problems. Inspect your roof for damaged or curled shingles, corroded flashing, or leaky vents.
- Walks the walks (and drives). Repair damaged sidewalks, driveways, and steps.
- **Chill out.** Drain and winterize outdoor faucets and irrigation systems.
- Freshen your filter. Clean or replace dirty furnace filters.
- **Give your furnace a physical.** Have a professional inspect your heating system.
- Gather 'round the hearth. Check fireplaces for soot or creosote build-up. Better yet, schedule a visit from a reputable chimney sweep.
- **Keep the humidifier humming.** Clean plates or pads to ensure efficient operation.
- Head off gas problems. If you have a gasfired room heater, have it inspected by a pro. Also, perform any routine maintenance recommended by the maker.
- Keep the wood fires burning. Wood stoves are making a comeback. To avoid a deadly situation, be sure to inspect yours before firing it up.
- Keep your family safe at home. Test smoke and CO monitors, inspect (or install) fire extinguishers, review fire escape plans, and rid your home of old newspapers and other fire hazards.

For a more in-depth version of this checklist, go to http://www.bhg.com/home-improvement/maintenance/weatherizing/your-homes-fall-checklist/
■

Source: Better Homes & Gardens

Greg's Calendar

by Greg Madden

Through January 23, 2016

Christopher Kurtz Exhibit. Kurtz's choice of wood as his medium is less about a passionate connection to the material than it is the right material for the artist's temperament.

Belger Crane Yard Studios
2011 Tracy Ave., Kansas City, MO 64108

http://redstarstudios.org/upcoming-exhibitions-.html

Ongoing, Wed-Sat, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free Hard Hat Tours at 10:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. See remaining original architecture on the first floors of Corinthian Hall (the mansion) and the Carriage House. Learn about the history and legacy of the Long family and the Museum. Kansas City Museum 3218 Gladstone Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64123

Through December 20, 2015 Wed-Sat, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

http://kcmo.gov/kansascitymuseum

Free Exhibition Tours. Mexican American Fast Pitch Softball Leagues: Connecting Communities Across State Lines explores the rich history and legacy of Mexican American fast pitch softball leagues in Missouri and Kansas.

Kansas City Museum

3218 Gladstone Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64123 http://kcmo.gov/kansascitymuseum

Through January 3, 2016 Wed-Mon, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Messengers of Goodwill. Discover how dolls were used to mend diplomatic relations. Step into 1920s Japan and America to view five of the three-foot-tall friendship doll ambassadors, reunited for the first time since 1927.

Toy and Miniature Museum 5235 Oak St., Kansas City, MO 64112 http://toyandminituremuseum.org/hours-admission/ ■

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

— Dr. Seuss

Cold Weather Pet Tips

by April Porter

As winter approaches, the following suggestions will help you protect your companion animals when the mercury dips.

Keep your cat inside. Outdoors, felines can freeze, become lost, or be stolen, injured, or killed. Cats who are allowed to stray are exposed to dogs, wildlife, and infectious diseases, including rabies.

During the winter, outdoor cats sometimes sleep under the hoods of cars. When the motor is started, the cat can be injured or killed by the fan belt. If there are outdoor cats in your area, bang loudly on the car hood before starting the engine to give the cat a chance to escape.

Never let your dog off the leash on snow or ice, especially during a snowstorm, when they can easily become lost. Make sure your dog always wears ID tags.

Thoroughly wipe off your dog's legs and stomach when he comes in from sleet, snow, or ice. He can ingest salt, antifreeze, or other potentially dangerous chemicals while licking his paws, and his paw pads may also bleed from snow or encrusted ice.

Never shave your dog down to the skin in winter, as a longer coat will provide more warmth. When you bathe your dog in the colder months, be sure to completely dry him before taking him out for a walk. Consider getting your shorthaired breed a coat or sweater with a high collar or turtleneck with coverage from the base of the tail to the belly.

Never leave your dog or cat alone in a car during cold weather. A car can act like a refrigerator in the winter, holding in the cold and causing the animal to freeze to death.

Puppies do not tolerate the cold as well as adult dogs and may be difficult to housebreak during the winter. If your puppy appears to be sensitive to the weather, you may opt to paper-train him inside. If your dog is sensitive to the cold due to age, illness, or breed type, take him outdoors only to relieve himself.

Does your dog spend a lot of time engaged in outdoor activities? Increase his supply of food, particularly protein, to keep him in good shape.

(continued on p. 6)

What Does WPNA Do for West Plaza? The Short List

Bi-annual Clean-Up: Dumpsters are provided for West Plaza residents for yard waste and bulky item disposal

Bi-monthly General Meetings: To keep you informed and up to date about the West Plaza, current city events, and issues that concern us as a neighborhood

Bi-monthly Newsletters: To disseminate information and keep neighbors connected

Community Organic Garden: Funded by WPNA and other donors and supported by some of our business members, plots are free to members and \$15 for non-members for a season of growing fun!

West Plaza Floral Garden: A neighborhood gem built on volunteer time and community donations, complete with native flowers and a hand-built stone monument

Community Cat TNR Program: To humanely check the growth of the feral cat population in our neighborhood

Banners and Signs: To welcome visitors to our neighborhood

Website, Facebook page, and MailChimp notices: Communication tools for keeping neighbors informed of important and timely issues

West Plaza Watch Facebook group: For alerts about safety and lost and found pets

Annual Neighborhood Picnic: Hosted every Spring to encourage neighborly relations

Yard Sales: Coordinated and promoted by the WPNA for a day of fun and profitable yard sales

A hard-working volunteer board of directors manages all these events, activities, and services for the benefit of the West Plaza and its residents. Won't you join us? Just complete the membership form on page 6 and send it to us with a check.

So be sure when you step, Step with care and great tact. And remember that life's A Great Balancing Act.

Dr. Seuss, Oh, the Places You'll Go!

It's True, Darn It: Shovel Your Sidewalk or Face a Fine

by Harold Scott

With the great weather we have been having lately, it is difficult to think that snow and ice may soon be an issue. Now is a good time to review the responsibilities of property owners and occupiers when inclement weather does arrive.

In 2013, Kansas City started enforcing its sidewalk-clearing ordinance. Property owners who don't clear their sidewalks of snow and ice face possible fines, with most ranging between \$25 and \$100. The official city code is as follows:

Sec. 64-246. - Removal of ice or snow.

It shall be the duty of all persons owning or occupying any real property, fronting upon any street, boulevard or highway, to remove from the sidewalks in front or alongside of such property all ice and snow within a reasonable time after cessation of a storm depositing such ice or snow. The provisions of chapter 62, article III, pertaining to littering, and penalties for violations thereof, shall be applicable to violations of this section.

Complaints can be filed by calling the city's 311 Call Center at 311 or 816-513-1313. They can also be filed online at www.kcmo.org/311. ■

Winter Pet Tips (continued from p. 5)

Like coolant, antifreeze is a lethal poison for dogs and cats. Be sure to thoroughly clean up any spills from your vehicle, and consider using products that contain propylene glycol rather than ethylene glycol. Visit the <u>ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center</u> for more information.

Make sure your companion animal has a warm place to sleep, off the floor and away from all drafts. A cozy dog or cat bed with a warm blanket or pillow is perfect. ■

Source: aspca.org

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

If you have not renewed for 2016, 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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| | [November-December 2015] |

2015 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 17; January 19, 2016

Fall Floral Garden Cleanup: TBA

Watch this space for the new 2016 calendar coming in January!

Feral Cat Issues?

Contact Sharon Martin 913-302-2115 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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U.S. Mail:

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2015 WPNA Business Members

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 300name email list, posted on the website, and hand-delivered six times per year to 1,100 homes. *New member this month

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