

WEST PLAZA

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



November Meeting Presentation Home Weatherization

Robert Jackson of the Kansas City Missouri Home Weatherization Division will be our speaker. He will be talking about how to make our homes comfortable in the winter cold and ways to reduce energy consumption. Considering the potential for high energy cost this winter, the topic should be very beneficial. Bring your questions and join in on this opportunity to hear the professionals on this topic.

Safer Holidays at Home

The winter holidays are a time for celebration and an increased risk of fire. In recent years, nearly 600 fires per year have been started by ignition of Christmas trees in the United States. Of these, 510 were started in homes, causing an average of 33 deaths, 112 injuries and \$21 million in direct property damage per year.

Decorating with candles can also be a fire hazard. Candles cause annual averages of 6,700 home fires every year, with 87 associated deaths and 587 injuries. Nearly \$59 million in property damage results from candle fires every year. Follow these fire prevention tips from to help keep your family safer during the holidays.

Holiday entertaining

Use caution with holiday decorations and whenever possible, choose those made with flame-retardant or non-combustible materials. When cooking for holiday visitors, remember to keep an eye on the range. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the U.S., so stand by your pan. If there are smokers around your home, provide plenty of large, deep ashtrays and check them frequently. Cigarette butts can smolder and cause a trash fire, so completely douse cigarette butts with water before discarding them. After a party, always check inside and under upholstery and

cushions and inside trash cans for cigarette butts that may be smoldering. If you have children in your home, keep matches and lighters up high, out of their sight and reach (preferably in a locked cabinet). Ask visitors who are smokers to keep their smoking materials with them when they are visiting in your home.

Candles

Never leave children unattended in a room with lit candles. Always keep candles, as well as matches and lighters, up high, out of the reach of children (preferably stored in a locked cabinet).

- Be sure candles are placed in sturdy, non-combustible holders, and are kept well away from decorations and other combustible materials.
- Check candles frequently to make sure they don't burn down too far or drip hot wax.
- Keep the wick trimmed to about ¼ inch.
- Don't display lighted candles in windows or near exits in case you need these to escape.
- Under no circumstances use candles to decorate Christmas trees.
- Use a candle snuffer to extinguish candles.

(Go to page 2, "Safer Holidays at Home")

Next General Membership Meeting

15 November 2005

7:00 P.M.

Cafeteria at Swinney School

1108 W. 47th Street

Home Weatherization

Nomination of Officers

West Plaza Neighborhood Association Newsletter
Edited by Boyd Williston
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Submit suggestions for newsletter articles or association activities to Boyd at his e-mail or postal address (e-mail is preferred). You must include your name and how to contact you for your suggestion to be considered. Articles may be edited for length, accuracy, and grammar. The submitter's name will be used only if permission is granted.

Production of this publication was made possible through support from the KCMO Neighborhood Development (Community Block Grant) and the Missouri Department of Economic Development (Neighborhood Assistance Program)

Advertising rates (display ad other than listing in business membership):

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

(*"Safer Holidays at Home", continued from page 1*)

Christmas trees

Choose a fresh Christmas tree, and put it in a stand designed not to tip over. Cut at least ½ inch from the trunk of the tree before placing it in the stand to keep the tree from drying out prematurely.

- Avoid placing it in an area close to heating appliances or the fireplace. This will not only dry the tree out prematurely, but can also increase the chance of accidental ignition.
- Keep the tree out of high traffic areas and away from stairways and doors. Never block an exit.
- Secure the tree so that pets or a small child or pet cannot knock it over.
- Make sure to check the water level daily. A six-foot tree will use one gallon of water every two days.
- If you purchase an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled as fire-retardant.
- For Christmas trees to be displayed in commercial and office building or stores, the trees must be treated with an approved flame retardant.

Tree decorations

When decorating with lights, be sure to purchase only those that bear the mark of a testing laboratory.

- Check lights for broken or cracked sockets. Make sure that all connections are tight and the bulbs and cords are in good condition. Replace any frayed or damaged cords.
- Be able to turn off the lights without having to crawl under the tree.
- Use the smaller lights. The older, larger bulbs are hotter and will dry out the tree, increasing the risk of a fire. The bigger ones also use a lot of electricity.
- Don't put more than three strands end to end. Each strand has a fuse, and if you run more than three,

you'll blow the fuse on the string causing the whole string of lights not to work. Your best bet is to put an extension cord up through the tree and plug the strands of lights into the cord.

- Although a lighted tree looks pretty to people driving by, never leave the lights on when you're out of the house or while you're sleeping.
- When shopping for Christmas tree ornaments, attempt to find ones that are flame resistant.
- For outside decorations, use only those lights labeled for outdoor use. Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house walls or other supports to prevent wind damage. Use plastic ties or insulated staples, not nails or tacks to attach the lights.
- Turn off all lights when no one is home.
- For added electric shock protection, plug outdoor electric lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters.
- Bring outdoor lights inside following the holidays so they are not damaged by extended exposure to harsh weather conditions.

When to remove the tree

Never burn a tree in a fireplace. Dry Christmas trees burn very hot and extremely quick. The fire may rapidly leave the fireplace and move into your room. Also, a Christmas tree is very oily and may damage your fireplace.

- The Fire Department recommends that a tree be removed from the home in the event that it becomes dry and begins shedding needles.
- Remove the tree as soon as possible after Christmas. Dispose of all papers and boxes at once, do not allow them to accumulate.

From the KCMO Fire Department web site, www.kcmo.org/fire

Leaves, Brush, and Yard Waste Disposal

Do you know what to do with leaves, brush, and other yard waste? Kansas City provides two programs for these.

There are two drop-off sites for leaves and brush.

- Environmental Campus, 4707 Deramus Road, just east of Chouteau Trafficway.
- Raytown Road Site, just south of I-470 on the east side of Raytown Road.

These two sites are open Saturday only, from 8 am to 6 pm. Here is what you need to know:

- Sites are attended, and are currently free for Kansas City residents. (Proof of residency, such as a driver's license or water bill, is required.)

(Go to page 3, "Leaves, Brush, Yard Waste")

(*"Leaves, Brush, Yard Waste", continued from page 2*)

- Only leaves and other yard waste -- except grass clippings -- and brush (including tree trimmings) are accepted.
- You may bring leaves in paper yard waste bags. If you seal your bags, use masking tape only - do not use duct tape or other plastic tape.
- You may be asked to empty bags to show that there is no trash.
- If you bring leaves in plastic bags, you must empty the bags yourself and take the empty bags with you.

Fall Collection Begins November 28

The City collects up to 15 sacks or bundles of leaves and brush -- **but not grass clippings** -- from Kansas City residences at curbside twice a year, spring and fall. For most areas, the collection week depends on your regular trash day. The fall collection begins November 28 for Monday trash day areas.

Here are the rules:

- Sacks and bundles at the curb by 7 am on Monday the week of your collection.
- If sacks and bundles are not picked up by Wednesday of your collection week, call the Action Center at 513-1313 no later than 5 pm Thursday of the same week.
- No more than 15 sacks and/or bundles per household.
- Sacks and bundles must not weigh more than 40 pounds each.
- Use only paper lawn debris sacks. No plastic bags.
- If you seal sacks use masking tape only -- do not use plastic or duct tape.
- No grass clippings. No trash.
- All branches must be bundled. Branches must not be more than 3 inches in diameter and not more than 4 feet long.
- Bundles of branches must not be more than 2 feet in diameter and not more than 4 feet long.
- Use twine or jute rope only to tie bundles. Do not use wire or plastic tape.
- If wet weather is forecast, cover sacks/bundles with clear plastic.
- We anticipate that leaves and brush drop-off sites will be open following completion of the curbside collection.

For our area, here is the collection schedule

For those of us with a **Monday** trash day, set out leaves and brush by 7 a.m. on **Monday, Nov 28**
 For those of us with a **Friday** trash day, set out leaves and brush by 7 a.m. on **Monday, Dec 19**

WPNA Business Members

SHELTON TRAVEL

4800 Bellevue Ave.
816-753-4888

FITNESS TOGETHER

4802 Bellevue Ave.
816-841-5129
www.fitnessstogether.com

LE NAIL'S SALON

4804 Bellevue Ave.
816-931-0303

YING'S COFFEE AND DELI

4806 Bellevue Ave.
913-526-7457

LADNER ASSOCIATES CPA

4808 Bellevue Ave.
816- 561-7580

GARY JENKINS ATTORNEY AT LAW

204 W. Linwood Blvd.
816-931-3535

CATHY'S CLIP & CURL SALON

4301 Wyoming St.
816-561-2331

Judy Klemm REMAX PREMIER REALTY

3515 W. 75th St.
913-529-1408 (or 406-9204)

Penelope Cox PRUDENTIAL KANSAS CITY REALTY

8101 College Blvd.
Overland Park, KS 66210
913-661-8545

FINAL DRAFT SECRETARIAL SERVICE

4401 Genessee St.
816-931-2276

DOG'S WORLD OF FUN

1220 W. 31st St.
816-931-5822

BOOZEFISH WINE BAR

1511 Westport Road
816-561-5995

CURVES

1010 Westport Road
816-753-5707

SUNSHINE FLOWERS

4509 Rainbow Blvd.
913-384-5034

PC SOLUTIONS

In Home Computer Repair
816-756-5811

WESTPORT LAUNDROMAT

1409 Westport Road
816-531-8889

HAIR STYLE

4500 Bell St.
816-531-4545

GREENWICH WEST

1801 Westport Road
816-561-8411

KATE'S CANINE RESORT

207 W. 31st St.
816-753-4188

DAVID ALLEN STATE FARM INSURANCE

1414 W. 47th St.
816-753-4334

BERGAMOT & IVY, INC.

1713 Westport Road
816-561-5599

JENNINGS TREE CARE

4505 State Line
816-931-3399

VALLEY VIEW BANK

4550 Bellevue Ave.
913-381-3311

PLAZA CHIROPRACTIC

1507 W. 47th St.
816-931-4601

ACT II

1417 W. 47th St.
816-531-7572

PRECISION OPTICS OF WESTPORT

4181 Broadway
816-756-3577

STEVE'S WEST PLAZA HOME MAINTENANCE SERVICE

816-531-4234
<http://tinyurl.com/5oarb>

TRILOGY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LLC

4600 Madison, Suite 1500
816-756-0640

WELL GROUNDED MASSAGE THERAPY

1615 W. 45th St.
816-729-6208

PRINT TEKK PRINTING AND MAILING

4312 Terrace St.
816-931-4122

KC's Bulky Item Collection Program

The Bulky Item Collection program is for disposal of large household items that can't be handled as part of the weekly trash pickup. This includes items that are more than four feet long or weigh more than 40 pounds.

Note: A big pile of "stuff" is NOT a bulky item. Such "stuff" must be placed in bags or boxes for weekly trash collection or recycled.

Bulky items are now collected by zone, rather than on citizen request. This results in greater operational efficiency and lower costs to you, our citizens. Each zone receives service every month or every other month, depending on observed need -- more frequent service in areas where citizens use the service more, and less frequent service in areas where the service is used less.

West Plaza is in Zone 26. That means that our bulky item pickup date is in even numbered months (February, April, June, August, October, and December). And it also means that bulky items should be put out on the 26th. If the 26th is a weekend or Holiday, put the items out on the next workday.

If you put out something for bulky item pickup, and it's still at the curb after three days, call 513-1313 on the fourth or fifth business day to arrange for a pick-up.

Bulky Item Program Requirements

- Collection is provided for all single-family houses and all multi-family buildings containing six dwelling units or less.
- Place bulky items at the curb for pickup before 7 am on the assigned date.
- Your bulky items will be picked up on this date, or within three days thereafter.
- If your neighborhood's date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, place bulky items at the curb on

the next regular working day.

- Place bulky items where they are not obstructed by parked cars or other objects, and away from beneath tree branches or low hanging wires.
- Crews cannot go into yards or driveways.
- Because some items require special processing, it may take three trucks to pick up all bulky items at your house -- one for appliances that contain refrigerants, one for other bulky metal items, and one for all other bulky items.

The Bulky Item Program WILL ACCEPT:

- Items containing refrigerants: Refrigerators, freezers, air conditioning units
- Metal Appliances: stoves, dishwashers, washing machines, dryers, water heaters, furnaces, metal furniture
- Other Bulky Items: Couches, tables, fencing, chairs, TVs, beds, mattresses, bathroom fixtures, cabinets, rugs, garage doors, lawn mowers, railroad ties, disassembled swing sets, large car parts, storm windows or glass panes*
- Please note: In order to help prevent injury, place a large "X" of masking tape across glass panes to prevent shattering and stack them separately from other bulky items.

The Bulky Item Program will NOT ACCEPT:

- Commercial or business trash or waste materials, including trash or waste from businesses conducted in or from a residence.
- Piles -- or bags or boxes -- of smaller items, or loose or scattered materials:
- Closed drums or fuel tanks: Metal drums must have both ends removed to be collected.
- Automobile bodies or gas tanks.
- Leaves and brush

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
New [] Renewal [] Household (\$12) [] Senior (\$7) [] Business (\$25) []

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

e-mail _____

I would like to help the neighborhood with:

- Picnic [] Property Maintenance/Zoning []
- Yard Sale [] Neighborhood clean-up []
- Crime prevention [] Distribute newsletter []
- Refreshments for meetings []

(November 2005 Newsletter)