

WEST PLAZA

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



Progress on Traffic

One of the principal goals of the West Plaza Neighborhood Association is to improve the "livability" of our community. Our WPNA members and many neighbors have for a long time expressed an interest in improving the streets that go through our neighborhood. We want "traffic calming," improved pedestrian safety, and beautification.

We are happy to report some progress on this issue. Two programs are in the works that have street improvements in our neighborhood as their goals.

The traffic calming study

The developers of the West Edge project, which is south of 48th Street and between Roanoke and Belleview, were asked to support street changes so that any increase in traffic that their project would generate would not be a problem to the neighborhood. They not only are doing this, but they have contracted with a local firm, 180 Degrees Design Studio, to study the entire WPNA area and develop suggestions for changes that could improve traffic and pedestrian safety.

Neighborhood residents have given their input on problems with traffic, parking, and safety. Staff members from 180 Degrees Design Studio have walked through the neighborhood and made their own observations.

On August 4th-6th, neighborhood residents participated in a design workshop dealing with traffic and parking issues. The purpose of the workshop was to review problems within and on the borders of the neighborhood and suggest future improvements to calm traffic. In all, the goal is to enhance livability and to balance the needs of through traffic with those of the residents of West Plaza.

The results of the workshop will be presented at the September WPNA meeting, but in essence include these important short and long-term goals:

- Ensure that the speed of traffic actually is in line with the posted speed, through physical design. The majority of the typical residential streets should have a goal of 20 mph design speed, for safety and to discourage cut-through traffic
- "Calm" through traffic, thus not taking away from WPNA's livability
- Slow the speed of traffic on Roanoke Parkway
- Improve the safety of the intersection at 45th & Roanoke Parkway
- Provide a coordinated parking policy, so businesses and residents can coexist with less conflict

Many neighbors participated in the workshop, and the ideas ranged from the very provocative to the mundane. Some of the suggestions could be implemented quickly and at very little cost. At the September meeting, we'll show all of it. We'll review the work, the feedback, and the lessons learned. We'll present a vision for how it all ties together. Please come and give us one last bit of feedback. *(continued on page 2, "Traffic")*

Next General Membership Meeting

20 September 2005
Cafeteria at Swinney School

Agenda:
Traffic Calming Study
Westport/43rd/SW Trafficway Study

West Plaza Neighborhood Association Newsletter
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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.

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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 |

("Traffic", continued from page 1)

Intersection at Westport/43rd/Southwest Tfwy

The city has sponsored two public sessions to discuss ideas on improving this intersection which is at the very northeast corner of West Plaza. The city's traffic engineers recognize that this intersection is a problem. It has a very high accident rate, it's difficult for pedestrians to navigate, and the short distance between street crossings makes it very difficult for traffic to get through. Any of us who have tried to go west on 43rd through the intersection know very well how much of a problem exists there.

The WPNA membership should be interested in improving this intersection, not just because doing so would improve safety and traffic flow at that location. Making the right improvements will also make it practical to implement some of the more creative traffic calming suggestions that have been proposed.

In the first session, a large audience attended and brainstormed many ideas on how to improve this problem intersection. The City's traffic engineers took notes and went back to see how to put these suggestions into useful designs.

After a few months, the City sponsored a second session and presented three suggestions for improvements. The residents who attended the session gave their comments.

The three suggestions are similar in estimated cost (about \$2,600,000 each) and safety improvements. They differ quite a bit in terms of what changes to make in the streets.

We will have a brief presentation of the three suggestions from the City engineers and a summary of

the reaction of those who attended the second meeting at our next general membership meeting.

The WPNA board is very interested in these proposals, since improving this intersection will impact how we complete some of our traffic calming suggestions from the 180 Degree Design Studio studies.

West Edge Update

You may have noticed that there hasn't been any obvious activity in the West Edge project area (south of 48th, between Roanoke and Belleview). The developers have been busy, but not with the land yet. They have been finalizing the design, getting financing in line, and arranging for tenants to occupy the office space. They have presented their final design to the city. They have gotten approval for what was presented. We can anticipate excavation to begin this fall.

Police Report

The weekly crime report for West Plaza listed just one home burglary in our neighborhood for the week covered. This is a serious crime and one is too many for the week. However this is good considering the number of homes and people who live and work within our boundaries. Keep up the good work and remember Officer Diane Soligo conducts free security surveys for homes within our neighborhood. She can be reached at 816.234-5510.

Goodbye to a Neighborhood Leader

Shirley Williston passed away this spring, on March 7th. She is survived by her husband, Boyd and two sons, Kenton and Keith, a daughter-in-law and a grandson.

Shirley was active in WPNA. She volunteered often, held Board positions, and was a frequent contributor to the newsletter. We'll all miss her "Meet a West Plaza Neighbor" contributions.

Boyd and his sons thank their many friends for their expressions of sympathy. Shirley will be much missed by all of us.

!!!Recycle!!!
 48th and Forrest
 Wednesday through Friday
 11 am – 5:30 pm
 Saturday 8 am – 4 pm

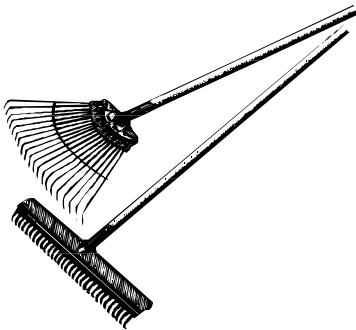
It's Time Again for our WPNA Clean Sweep!

On Saturday, October 15th we will have two dumpsters on the east side of Westwood Park (on Fairmount, south of 47th Street).

One dumpster will be for yard waste (no plastic, large wood, or other trash), one for bulky items.

We'll start taking contributions at 8:00 a.m. Once the dumpsters are full, we will stop collecting.

Remember, this is a service of WPNA and Kansas City, MO, so you must be a WPNA resident to participate.



Westwood Park Master Planning Process Continues

The public planning meeting held on Saturday, July 9th at the Plaza Library was a lively and at times impassioned success. Over 60 neighbors from West Plaza and Westwood neighborhoods packed the meeting room. They, along with the Park Department designers, reviewed the park's amenities and liabilities. The group then generated lists of potentials for the park's future and voted to prioritize them.

A follow-up meeting with the neighborhood steering committee decided a design charrette should be held to generate various design scenarios for the park's future. Based on the priorities established by the neighbors, several neighborhood architects, park designers, and residents have since collaborated to map out just such a plan.

While the plan is in its infancy, the first viewing can be had during the September neighborhood meeting. You can also review the priority list used to craft the current scheme. Everyone is welcome to attend. Bring your opinions and suggestions. The last time the park's master plan was updated was 1987, so join in now. It may be a while before you get the opportunity again.

WPNA Business Members

SHELTON TRAVEL
4800 Belleview Ave.
816-753-4888

FITNESS TOGETHER
4802 Belleview Ave.
816-841-5129
www.fitnessstogether.com

LE NAIL'S SALON
4804 Belleview Ave.
816-931-0303

YING'S COFFEE AND DELI
4806 Belleview Ave.
913-526-7457

LADNER ASSOCIATES CPA
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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
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4401 Genessee St.
816-931-2276

GROTTO DELICATESSEN
1517 Westport Road
816-531-6775

**PRINT TEKK PRINTING
AND MAILING**
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816-931-4122

DOG'S WORLD OF FUN
1220 W. 31st St.
816-931-5822

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1511 Westport Road
816-561-5995

PC SOLUTIONS
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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

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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 Belleview 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

CURVES
1010 Westport Road
816-753-5707

SUNSHINE FLOWERS
4509 Rainbow Blvd.
913-384-5034

**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

**Your West Plaza Real Estate Agent
Penelope Cox**

We continue our service to help provide you with answers to questions you may have about real estate here in our neighborhood. Just send your questions to: pcox@PruKC.com

In the March & July 2005 issues we talked about Credit Scoring. So, pull out those issues let's continue on the subject.

Credit Scoring

Dear Penny: How can I correct an error on my Credit Report?

A: Here are 7 steps you can do to correct your Credit Report:

- 1) Ask for a Credit Dispute Form from your mortgage broker.
- 2) Complete one form for each inaccurate piece of information on your credit report. Attach documentation to support your claim.
- 3) Mail the form to the reporting repository with a return receipt requested.
- 4) The repository has 5 days to notify the specific trade line of the dispute. Within 30 days the trade line must complete its investigation and report back to the repository. If there is no response from the trade line, the repository must remove the item from your credit file.
- 5) After notification by the repository of the correction or change, a new credit report may be run to get a new score for underwriting purposes.
- 6) You can receive a credit report from each of the

three repositories for about \$8 each, or for free if you request one within 60 days of being declined for credit reasons.

- 7) Ask your mortgage broker about the rapid re-score resolution process if you have inaccuracies on your credit report.

For more information go to www.namb.org

(Source: NAMB National Association of Mortgage Brokers)

It's a Good Time to Join WPNA

Have you ever thought about joining with your neighbors to work to make this a better place to live? The West Plaza Neighborhood Association is a voluntary organization – you are not a member until you join. Living here is a qualification for membership, and a good reason to join, but it doesn't make you a member.

There are good reasons to join:

- You get special notification by phone of events that are of neighborhood interest.
- You can vote on WPNA activities
- You'll be eligible for special things, like door prizes.
- You can join the board of the WPNA and help plan and set direction for the next year.

And right now, we are running our annual special. Join during the last quarter (three months) of the year, and your membership will be extended through the end of the next year. This is a special for new members only, not for renewals.

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

(September 2005 Newsletter)