

WEST PLAZA

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



Next General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, January 17, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.
Swinney Elementary School Cafeteria
1106 West 47th Street

- Election of 2006 WPNA Board Members and officers (see page 3 for the list of nominees).
- Kansas City Missouri Police Department (representatives of a specialized crime unit will be presenting information and accepting questions from the neighbors)

Intersection Planning Now Includes SW Trafficway

The recent efforts to redesign the intersection at SW Trafficway / Westport Road / 43rd Street has not advanced as originally planned. The City of Kansas City recognized that this complex intersection was one of the most dangerous in the city. After getting ideas and input from many residents, the City traffic engineers developed three reconfiguration concepts. Each attempted to improve the traffic flow and safety. However, after businesses and neighborhood groups reviewed the plans they did not appear to be impressed. The Broadway-Westport Council and some other groups even opposed the three designs because they felt the changes would hurt businesses in the area. The city is now working to develop revised designs for the intersection.

Meanwhile, our friends in the Coleman Highlands Neighborhood (which is located south of 31st Street and west of SW Trafficway) have initiated a discussion on how the SW Trafficway should look in the future. The eight neighborhoods, local businesses, and institutions located next to the Trafficway have participated in discussions to find ways to slow down traffic, make a more pedestrian-friendly environment, and reduce congestion in the neighborhoods. Looking at the Trafficway and the major intersections in a more comprehensive manner will not only improve the traffic flow and safety, it will continue to make our neighborhood one of the most desirable areas to live in the city.

The Drink on the Plaza

After being open for less than seven months The Drink on the Plaza, 919 West 47th Street, closed on December 12. According to a recent article in The Kansas City Star this business was dubbed the "Plaza's hottest and only dance club" that quickly cooled.

According to a representative of the Kansas City Regulated Industries Division the liquor license for this establishment was returned to the city. This means that the liquor license cannot be transferred to another establishment at this location, if another business wants to sell liquor at this location the licensing must start over at the beginning of the process.

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.

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

West Edge Project Update

One of the long time residents of the West Plaza Neighborhood stated "I will have to see it before I believe it". This person along with a large group of others from West Plaza joined a group of approximately 100 people to see the ground breaking for The West Edge on December 13.

The West Edge is a \$116 million mixed-use project that will be located in our neighborhood between Roanoke Parkway, Belleview Avenue, from 48th Street to Ward Parkway. The development will be the new headquarters for Bernstein-Rein Advertising (which is currently located in our neighborhood a few blocks to the north).

This project will include 203,000-square feet of office space, a 128-room boutique hotel, 27,000-square feet of retail, 260-seat auditorium and approximately 1,000 underground parking spaces.

The Boston-based architect Moshe Safdie designed the complex. You can learn more about their many projects (including West Edge) at their web site, www.msafdie.com.

According to Ray Braswell, the developer of the project, the excavation for the project will happen between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Because of the possibility of damage to surrounding structures, there will be no blasting related to the removal of rock that is on the project site.

Ray has guaranteed the neighborhood that workers on the project will be provided off-street parking. He stated that if the workers are parking in the residential areas of the West Plaza neighborhood that they should be reported to him with specific information related to the vehicle (license plate number and vehicle description).

Recycling

Have you noticed that recycling is now being done every week, instead of every other week as it used to be?

That sure makes it a lot easier to remember when to put out the recycle.

Remember, recycling is important to our community. Every year, it gets more expensive to take care of trash. Most trash has to go to land fills, and it's getting harder to find sites that are acceptable for this purpose. Since there are fewer places for land fills, the price goes up. That's the law of supply and demand.

So do as much to reduce your trash every week. The city allows two big bags. But if you are careful, it's often amazing how little trash you really need to put out ever week.

And remember, certain items that can't be put out at the curbside for recycling can be taken to one of the City's collection sites.

Glass, for example, can be taken to the 48th and Forrest collection site.

So help the City keep waste disposal costs to a minimum...

RECYCLE!

Annual Election

It's time for our annual election of officers and board. We took nominations in the November meeting, and we'll elect the new board in the January meeting

Here are the nominees:

President

Bob Crutsinger. Bob is our current president. 2005 was his second term in this position.

Treasurer

Marlene Toms. Marlene has served as the treasurer for several years.

Membership

Boyd Williston. This is Boyd's current position on the board. 2005 was his first year serving in this position

Secretary

Paul Minto. This is Paul's current position on the board.

At-large

Penny Cox, Delois Moore, John Toms, and Julia Tenenbaum are current board members who are up for re-election. Ed O'Donnell is running for the first time.

Our Business Members

Have you ever paid attention to the business member listing that's on the right-hand side of page 3 in each issue of the newsletter (this page)?

These businesses have an interest in our neighborhood. They have joined the association because they are interested in what's going on around here.

Check them out. If you have need of the type of service that one provides, give them a try. You'll find a friendly neighbor who will take interest in you.

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
4808 Belleview 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 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

**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

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

This section of your Newsletter is a service for you. So, just send any questions you may have regarding real estate here in our neighborhood to: pcox@PruKC.com

Safety Thoughts On Portable Heaters

A personal message I want to repeat from last year's newsletter: As a Realtor who is in and out of hundreds of homes each year I reap the advantage of learning more and more about Safety Issues in Our Homes. These may cover Environmental, Mechanical, Wiring – But – I want to address Portable Heaters. This is our time of year when it is the coldest and I see these in homes and precautions should be followed. The greatest risk with these types of heating sources is – Fire!

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) shows an increasing trend in residential fire deaths caused by Portable Heaters, and that Portable Electric or Kerosene Heaters are the leading cause of fire-related deaths. Why? Because people leave these on when they leave the home or leave them on in bedrooms at night running throughout the night, people wake up are often then overcome by toxic smoke.

If one must be used at night then a properly functioning smoke/fire detector should be installed in the heated room to provide an early warning. Additionally, please purchase only certified units with the latest safety features (like a tip-over shut-off), and keep combustibles at least 3 feet away.

Costs Soaring This Winter – A Topline Of What You Can Do

I'm sure you have all received your latest Gas Bill. Rising costs are a real concern. If you want to cut costs by using Portable Heaters – I caution you. Other ways to lower your home energy budget is to prepare for our colder months. Many of these you may be aware of, but I wanted to "topline" this list as a helpful reminder:

Insulate. Attic, basement walls, floors, crawl spaces. Blown-in fiber glass insulation can be highly thermally efficient for the life of the home.

Heat The Indoors, Not The Outdoors. Check walls, floors, roof, windows, doors.

Address Energy Inefficient Windows. Seek out double pane and low emissivity coated windows.

Install An Automatic Setback or Programmable Thermostat. And use it. Let the temperature drop overnight and while you are away during the day.

Check Your Furnace. Change the filters, clean air registers, baseboard heaters and radiators.

Keep The Sun In. Keep blinds or drapes of sun-exposed windows open during the day/closed at nite. Close off unoccupied areas.

Select Energy Star Products. Look for the Energy Star Label when replacing heating and cooling systems, appliances, lighting, windows, insulation and home electronics.

Put Timers On Your Lights.

Bulbs Can Make A Difference. Replacing your incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs can make a cost difference

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

(January 2006 Newsletter)