

# WEST PLAZA

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



### ✓ Mark Your Calendar ✓

#### **Annual Neighborhood Yard Sales Saturday, July 12**

#### **Join the Fun - Have a Yard Sale!**

Have you been thinking about cleaning out your house – I mean *really* cleaning it out? Finally letting go of that granny dress that will never come back in style (not in our lifetime!) and that Popeil's Pocket Fisherman that was a mistake from the get-go? How about that collection of beer mugs that doesn't give you quite the thrill that it used to?

If it's time to let it all go, July 12 is the date. West Plaza is having its annual neighborhood yard sales, and you can be part of the fun. You can get together with a friend or two and have a really big multi-family extravaganza, or you can go it alone and invite all your friends over to shop. One way or another, you can end up with an emptier house and a fuller wallet. Unless you take a break to go see what your neighbors are selling...

To generate business for everyone, we'll advertise the sales on [Craigslistkc.com](http://Craigslistkc.com), *Kansas City Star* (both newspaper and online), and the *Pitch's* [backpage.com](http://backpage.com), and we'll provide a flyer of all the neighborhood sales that you can pass out to customers so they won't miss out on any!

To be included in the flyer, contact Boyd Williston (816-931-0194 or [boyd01wpna@kc.rr.com](mailto:boyd01wpna@kc.rr.com)) no later than Wednesday, July 2 with a general description of what you'll be selling (note any special items) and your address. You do not need to be a WPNA member to participate.

### **Systematic Code Inspections Coming to the West Plaza**

For many of us, our homes represent our single most important investment. No matter how hard we work to maintain and improve our home, the abandoned or neglected property next door can materially reduce its resale value. This is frustrating and unfair to the hard-working homeowner.

Rundown properties are not just an eyesore. There is a well-accepted theory in law enforcement called the "broken window" theory, which claims that rundown properties lead to increased crime. Broken windows, overgrown lawns, and rundown properties give the impression that no one cares. When no one cares, trash accumulates, graffiti appears, and soon the neighborhood is on a downward spiral. Neglected, poorly managed properties are often occupied by undesirable tenants. According to the theory, by lowering everyone's expectations, rundown properties are a direct cause of increased crime. Rundown properties lower the desirability of the neighborhood and the residents' quality of life.

Your West Plaza Neighborhood Association does care. Our stated mission is "to improve the quality of life in the West Plaza Neighborhood." For that reason, we welcome the City's new initiative to bring systematic code enforcement to our neighborhood. The first phase will begin in early July. So if you see the inspectors in their blue KCMO uniforms looking at the houses on your block, don't be surprised. The inspectors will be looking for obvious violations

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## Inspections (continued from page 1)

of Kansas City's Housing Codes and Nuisance Codes. Housing code violations include defective roofs, gutters, and windows, rotted wood, peeling paint, broken down porches, stairs, and handrails, and missing or broken siding or shingles, to name a few of the more common ones. Nuisance Code violations include trash and debris in the yard, open storage, disabled, wrecked, or unlicensed vehicles, weeds over ten inches tall, rat infestation, and buildings that are open and unsecured against entry.

The purpose of these inspections is to encourage all property owners to bring their properties up to the *minimum standard of compliance with city ordinances*, and not to punish or to create a hardship for anyone. A few of us may have to splash a little paint here and there, or fasten that gutter back on, but let's face it – it's probably something we should have done anyway. Most of us will not be affected at all. In the long run, all West Plaza residents will benefit as the most neglected homes are brought up to code.

Please give the inspectors a hand by letting them know if there is a problem property on your block. Call Mr. LeRon Ford, Code Enforcement Supervisor, at 816-513-9056.

## No More Homeless Pets KC

Each year approximately 20,000 companion animals are needlessly killed in Kansas City area shelters. Last December, No More Homeless Pets KC opened a low-cost, high-quality, high-volume, spay and neuter clinic in Merriam, Kansas, to reduce the number of homeless pets that end up in shelters. Their goal is to make Kansas City a no-kill community by 2012. But to get there, they need your help.

Help spread the word about the clinic and increase the number of healthy, altered animals in Kansas City. Spaying and neutering pets is the best-proven way to reduce the number of unwanted pets. It also helps keep pets healthy and happy – reducing the risk of many diseases and improving animal temperament.

## Volunteer for the Tenth Annual (Free) Dance In The Park!

by Mark Carr

Since 1998, tens of thousands of people from throughout the region have watched many of the area's dance companies in performances at DITP that often drew standing ovations. What's even more impressive is that in those ten years, hundreds of people who live in or near the sponsoring neighborhoods (Volker, Roanoke, Coleman Highlands, West Plaza and Valentine) have volunteered their time to make the event possible.

This year the need for volunteers is even greater. We've learned that some jobs, such as overseeing parking, simply need more people. We've added some evening-of-the-event volunteer roles, and we're also enlisting volunteers to help with some of the preparation before the event.

Your commitment for 2-4 hours on Saturday evening, September 6, at Roanoke Park will make this amazing event possible. We'll give you one of the cool DITP t-shirts, and you'll have the satisfaction of knowing that you contributed to the show's success.

To sign up or to learn more, call Mark Carr at 816-868-6870.



Prices for services are low, and NMHPKC specialize in helping people who are financially disadvantaged or are caring for multiple stray or feral cats. Already in 2008, they have spayed and neutered over 1,000 cats and dogs.

The clinic is located right off I-35 at Antioch, so it's centrally located for most areas of the city. The new state-of-the-art facility, caring volunteers, and on-site veterinarian ensure that all animals receive the very best care.

For prices and to schedule an appointment, call 816-333-PETS (816-333-7387). For more information about No More Homeless Pets KC and upcoming events, visit their website at [www.nmhpkc.org](http://www.nmhpkc.org).

## 2008 Events & Meetings

WPNA general membership meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of odd numbered months at The Point Annex, 915 West 44<sup>th</sup> Street.

### Schedule:

General Meetings: Sept. 16, Nov. 18  
Neighborhood Yard Sales: Saturday, July 12  
Dance in the Park: Saturday, September 6  
Fall Cleanup: Saturday, October 11

## Safety Class was a Hit!

Nineteen neighbors and friends attended the safety class presented by Master Patrol Officer Jim Schriever of the Kansas City Police Department in May. The presentation was not just interesting. It was compelling and immediately useful to everyone who attended. Safety in many areas was addressed: car, home, on the streets, in public places. The two-hour class included a Powerpoint presentation as well as a hands-on demonstration of self-defense techniques.

According to Officer Schriever, a free public class similar to the one given to the West Plaza will be held in the near future that will be available to the first 200 to sign up. The location and date will be announced soon. If you are interested in attending that class, email or call Julie Tenenbaum (jatkc@aol.com or 816-931-2276) to be added to the notification list.

West Plaza Neighborhood Association Newsletter  
Edited by Julie A. Tenenbaum  
Address: 4401 Genessee, Kansas City, MO 64111-4359  
Phone: 816-931-2276 email: jatkc@aol.com

Submit suggestions for newsletter articles or association activities 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. The submitter's name will be used only if permission is granted.

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

## Home Safety Inspections Available

How safe is your home from burglary? If you would like to find out from the perspective of a Kansas City Police officer, call or email West Plaza Police Liaison Jim Schriever (yes, the same Officer Schriever who presents the safety class – he's a very busy man!) at JSchriever@kcpd.org or 816-759-6313) to schedule an appointment. There is no charge for this service.

## Halfy's Thrift Boutique

Have you heard of the neatest thrift store in town? It's Halfy's in Mission, Kansas. All proceeds go to benefit The Pet Connection, a no-kill animal shelter that specializes in placing older cats and dogs. For more information, call 913-709-3075.

# 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

Check One: New  Renewal

Check One: Household (\$12)  Senior (\$7)  Business (\$25)

Check if you **DO NOT** want to receive phone reminders and messages from WPNA:

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  Newsletter Distribution

Meeting Refreshments  **NEW!** Gardening

(June-July-August 2008 Newsletter)

## WPNA Business Members

Please support the businesses that support the WPNA!

<p><b>ACT II</b> 1417 W. 47<sup>th</sup> St. 816-531-7572</p> <p><b>AMERICAN BUDDHIST CENTER</b> 4400 Wyoming 816-210-3378</p> <p><b>BERGAMOT &amp; IVY, INC.</b> 1713 Westport Road 816-561-5599</p> <p><b>BOOZEFISH WINE BAR</b> 1511 Westport Road 816-561-5995 www.boozefish.com</p> <p><b>CATHY'S CLIP &amp; CURL SALON</b> 4301 Wyoming St. 816-561-2331</p> <p><b>CIRCLE TAX &amp; ACCOUNTING</b> 1721 Westport Road 816-753-1700</p> <p><b>COUNTRY CLUB FINANCIAL</b> Herman Johansen 4343 Belleview 816-360-8628</p> <p><b>DAVID ALLEN STATE FARM INSURANCE</b> 1414 W. 47<sup>th</sup> St. 816-753-4334</p> <p><b>DESIGNER WIG STUDIO</b> 1105 Westport Road Kansas City, MO 64111 816-444-5644</p> <p><b>DOGS' WORLD OF FUN</b> 1220 W. 31st St. 816-931-5822 www.dogsworldoffun.com</p> <p><b>FINAL DRAFT SECRETARIAL SERVICE</b> 4401 Genessee St. 816-931-2276</p>	<p><b>FITNESS TOGETHER</b> 4448 Belleview 816-841-5129</p> <p><b>GARY JENKINS ATTORNEY AT LAW</b> 204 W. Linwood 816-931-3535</p> <p><b>GREENWICH WEST</b> 1801 Westport Road 816-561-8411</p> <p><b>HAIR STYLE</b> 4500 Bell St. 816-531-4545</p> <p><b>JENNINGS TREE &amp; LAWN CARE</b> 4505 State Line 816-931-3399</p> <p><b>JUDY KLEMM REMAX PREMIER REALTY</b> 2210 W. 75<sup>th</sup> St. 913-529-1408 or 913-406-9204</p> <p><b>KATE'S CANINE RESORT</b> 2823 Main St. 816-753-4188</p> <p><b>KURT AARONS, DDS</b> 4411 Belleview Ave. 816-531-2070</p> <p><b>LADNER ASSOCIATES CPA</b> 4808 Belleview Ave. 816- 561-7580</p> <p><b>MARSH'S SUN FRESH MARKET</b> 4001 Mill St. 816-931-1639</p> <p><b>MIKE KELLY'S WESTSIDER</b> 1515 Westport Road 816-931-9417</p> <p><b>MONTANARI FINE ART JEWELERS</b> 4810 Belleview Ave. 816-531-0750 www.montanarijewelers.com</p>	<p><b>NICK KRIER STATE FARM INSURANCE</b> 4806 Belleview Ave. 816-561-7770</p> <p><b>ORGANIZE ME</b> 816-529-6901</p> <p><b>PATHWAY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LLC</b> 4600 Madison, Suite 1500 816-756-0640</p> <p><b>PENELOPE COX Keller Williams Realty Key Partners, LLC</b> Direct Office: 913-825-7582 Cell: 816-728-3154</p> <p><b>PRINT TEKK PRINTING &amp; MAILING</b> 4312 Terrace 816-931-4122</p> <p><b>SHANNON BASHAM</b> Certified Personal Trainer &amp; CPR Instructor 816-810-3623</p> <p><b>SHELTON TRAVEL SERVICE</b> 4800 Belleview Ave. 816-753-4888</p> <p><b>SUNSHINE FLOWERS</b> 4509 Rainbow Blvd. 913-384-5034</p> <p><b>THE POINT</b> 917 W. 44<sup>th</sup> St. 816-561-7660</p> <p><b>VALLEY VIEW BANK</b> 4550 Belleview Ave. 913-381-3311</p> <p><b>WEST PLAZA HAIR &amp; SPA</b> 4802 Belleview Ave. 816-931-0303</p> <p><b>WEST PLAZA NAIL SALON</b> 4804 Belleview Ave. 816-931-0303</p>
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As always, we are grateful to Print Tekk, our neighborhood printer, for printing our newsletter without charge. Their generosity enables us to provide the newsletter to more than 900 residences in the West Plaza neighborhood.