

# WEST PLAZA

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



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### Mark Your Calendar ☒

**Upcoming General Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 24, 7-8 p.m.**  
**Swinney Dual Language Elementary School**  
**1106 West 47th Street**  
**Guest Speaker: Jan Marcason**  
**Drawing for \$25 Gift Card**

Jan Marcason, City Councilperson, will speak to us about the city's budget concerns, the ongoing improvements to Westwood Park, and many other relevant topics. Please plan to attend and bring any questions you may have about city activities.

### 2009 WPNA

#### Officers & Board Members

Elections for 2009 WPNA officers and directors were held at the January 20 general meeting. At the February board meeting, a vice president and a director of membership were appointed. New officers and positions are as follows: Joe Montanari, President; Kevin Pinkowski, Vice President; Marlene Toms, Finance; Craig Cotton, Membership; Ed O'Donnell, Secretary. At Large: Rie Clark, Brad McCormack, Julie Tenenbaum, and John Toms. ■

#### 2009 Events & Meetings

WPNA general membership meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of odd numbered months at Swinney Dual Language School, 1106 West 47th Street.

**General Meetings:** March 24 (fourth Tuesday to avoid St. Patrick's Day), July 28 (new summer meeting!), Sept. 15, Nov. 17

**Spring Cleanup & Picnic:** Saturday, May 30

**WPNA Garage Sales:** Saturday, July 11

**Fall Cleanup:** Saturday, October 10 ■

### President's Corner:

#### Love Your Neighborhood!

by Joe Montanari

No one chooses to live in a rundown neighborhood. Most folks would jump at the chance to move to a nicer home in a better area. The exponential growth of the suburbs surrounding every American city is all the proof you need. People have many motivations as they pursue an upwardly mobile lifestyle: better homes, less crime, better schools for the kids, a newer, cleaner environment. One way to accomplish these goals is to sell your house and pack up the moving van. A simpler and much less costly way is to *improve your home and neighborhood where you already live.*

This is a fundamental goal of your neighborhood association: to improve the quality of life in the West Plaza neighborhood. We encourage our neighbors to fix up and paint up their homes, and we work diligently with city staff to enforce housing codes, particularly on absentee rental properties. The new landlord registry is a powerful new tool to help us in this effort.

Over the years, as some neighborhoods declined, West Plaza has steadily improved. No neighborhood is without crime, yet West Plaza has enjoyed a low crime rate for many years. This is no accident. WPNA board member and retired Kansas City police officer John Toms works closely with Master Patrol Officer Jim Schriever, our neighborhood police liaison, reviewing crime statistics and keeping us informed with newsletter articles and timely tips on crime prevention. Officer Schriever keeps a watchful eye on West Plaza, making sure that sufficient police resources and

manpower are directed to areas of concern, before they become serious problems. You may not notice police presence in the neighborhood, but they are here.

To help keep our neighborhood looking sharp, WPNA conducts twice-a-year Neighborhood Cleanups, to make it easier for West Plaza residents to dispose of accumulated junk, leaves, and yard waste.

Sometimes, small things can make a big difference. Something as simple as picking up the trash that the wind has blown down the street makes your block that much nicer for everyone living there. A simple, friendly “hello” to the person across the street can work wonders. Getting to know our neighbors better, we build trust in one another and a sense of community. When everyone pitches in, we live up to our slogan and become a neighborhood where “we look out for each other.”

Some folks think you have to own Boardwalk and Park Place in order to win the game, while others know that a smart player can put hotels on Connecticut and Baltic Avenues, and do just fine. Moving to the suburbs may be tempting to some, but not to me. I prefer to keep working on Baltic Avenue until it looks just like Boardwalk. ■

## **Plant Some Prevention in Your Yard**

Spring and summer find many people outdoors planting, working in the yard, or fixing up the house. This is an excellent time to extend your security from inside your home to the outside. You can implement many strategies on your property that will help protect your house. Here are a few to consider.

1. Instead of mulch or bark, use decorative rock around your house. Rock makes noise when it's walked on. This will help to deter prowlers and alert you if someone is outside your window.
2. Trim tree branches up to a height of 6 ft. and bushes and shrubs down to a height of 3 ft. to create a clear view of your doors and windows by neighbors and passersby. It will also eliminate hiding spots for burglars.
3. If you plant bushes close to your home, especially around windows, plant thorny bushes or shrubs that will create an obstacle for would-be intruders. Shrubs such as hawthorn and barberry or bushes

such as rose bushes work well for this purpose.

4. Landscaping stones and brick used near your home should be grouted or cemented in place to prevent removal by hand. Burglars can pick up loose materials left lying around a yard and use them to break glass in doors or windows.
5. If you're thinking about installing a new privacy fence or planting hedges for privacy, consider this first. Privacy fences and hedges are great for giving you privacy, but they can also give a burglar the cover they need while breaking into your house. Installing an ornamental iron fence may be a better choice. Although iron does not give you privacy, it is harder for someone to climb over and will outlast most wood fences. If you already own a wood privacy fence, think about keeping the gate locked. An unlocked gate allows anyone to enter your yard without much chance of being seen. Someone climbing over a fence, however, is much more likely to draw attention.
6. Look at the address numbers on your home. If you need help in the middle of the night, will emergency personnel be able to easily find your house? Use large, easy-to-see house numbers that contrast with the color of the background to which they are attached.
7. Finally, make sure tree branches do not obstruct your house numbers and your security lighting. You want your address to be seen, and you want your lights to allow others to see what's going on in your yard. ■

## **Blessing of Palms**

All are invited to join the neighborhood churches for an ecumenical prayer service on Palm Sunday, April 5, at 10:15 am at Guardian Angels parking lot, 1310 Westport Road. The church leaders will jointly conduct the service and bless palms. The choir from Immanuel Lutheran will lead songs and bagpipers will play. After the service, members of each congregation will process to their particular church for the rest of their Palm Sunday service. Visitors are welcome at all the churches. ■

## Meet Your Neighbor: James & Laura Pastine

by Kevin Pinkowski

The subject of this month's column is a family who lives in what I affectionately refer to as the "architects' commune" on the 4400 block of Fairmount. James and Laura Pastine are both architects in downtown Kansas City. James works for Crawford Architects, and Laura works for BNIM. They have lived in the West Plaza neighborhood for almost 5 years. They have had two children since they've lived here, 3½-year-old Jonas, and Ezra, almost 1.

Laura is a native of Johnson County, and James grew up moving around with his family (British Columbia and Iowa) before finally settling in Kansas City. However, they both like to tell people they are from the west coast (Laura was born in California, and James was born in Washington).

Both James and Laura graduated with degrees in architecture from KU and studied in Italy during their collegiate careers – James in Spannocchia and Laura in Siena. They later decided to get married in Italy and honeymooned there before returning to Kansas City.

Before they had children, Laura and James spent a lot of time traveling, camping, and rock climbing. Now you can see them walking everywhere – to the Plaza, to the park, and to pick up pumpkins or Christmas trees. You might be able to recognize the family by Dora, the 6-year-old white Great Pyrenees, and sometimes, Frank the cat might stroll with them as well. If you see them around, introduce yourself and thank them for being great residents of the West Plaza neighborhood. ■

## West Plaza Garden Update

by Ed O'Donnell, Gardener-in-Chief

If you've taken a peek recently at the site of the incipient West Plaza Garden (the triangle of land at the intersection of 46<sup>th</sup> Street, Jarboe, and Roanoke), you might think the only thing growing is the pile of rocks that will soon turn into a walkway, but a lot of research and planning are taking place behind the scenes. Meetings with Sharon Pendleton, Joe Montanari, and a founding member of the Missouri Native Plant Society, Sue Hollis, have resulted in suggestions for native plants like

black-eyed Susan, glade coneflower, and liatris. Sue also recommended prairie drop seed as a grass for the edge of the garden.

Sharon helped me with field measurements to determine how many plants will be needed to fill the garden. She and Joe Padilla offered to start plants from seed indoors. While they are starting the annuals, I will be starting the perennials: fall glade onion, silky aster, rose turtlehead, and stiff leafed aster. Sue Hollis is donating some daylily cultivars, and an article in the MoNPS newsletter led to donations of Missouri evening primrose and seeds for the rose turtlehead.

We are also considering planting a pine or spruce, which would provide a vertical point of interest and work as an outdoor Christmas tree; this would require approval from Parks and Recreation.

Since a perennial garden takes time to grow, especially when you have limited funds and are relying on donations of plant material and cash, this year we will have a lot of zinnia, marigold, cosmos, sunflower, and morning glory. There is almost enough rock for the walkway, and in March it will be set permanently in place. In either April or early May, the garden will get a re-tilling if it needs it, and then we will start planting.

And speaking of donations, we are actively seeking both volunteer labor and cash donations to help us fund this community project. From our membership. And from their friends and relatives. And actually, from everybody. To donate, send a check payable to the WPNA to the address shown on the first page of this newsletter. If you wish to join the volunteers and put in a little sweat equity, call me, Ed O'Donnell, at 816-531-4692. Thank you! ■

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## Trash & Recycling: Do's & Don'ts

First, a couple of reminders about trash handling...

### **Don't put your trash out earlier than 3 p.m. the day before it's picked up.**

For most of West Plaza, the regularly scheduled day for trash pickup is Monday, and plastic trash bags and blue recycling bins must be at the curb by 7 a.m. Some residents prefer to place their trash at the curb on the preceding Sunday evening. That is acceptable, provided it is *after 3 p.m. on Sunday afternoon* (according to city ordinance). Please be a good neighbor, and refrain from putting trash out at any other time. Nobody likes to look at trash!

### **Don't share your trash with your neighbor.**

Recently we have heard reports of residents putting their trash bags at the curb in front of their neighbors' houses. Because there is a 2-bag limit per household, with each extra bag costing the resident \$1.00 (tags can be purchased at Westlake Hardware, by the way), it is NOT a good idea to stick your neighbor with your trash. Please don't do it!

### **And to end with some good news:**

Deffenbaugh has expanded their acceptable recyclable items list. The big news is that they now accept plastic containers numbers 1 through 7 curbside (look for the number inside the "chasing arrows" triangle on the bottom of the piece). All plastic containers must have been used for common consumer goods such as drinks, yogurt, margarine, icing, catsup, mustard, dish soap or laundry detergent. The full list of acceptable items is as follows:

- Newspaper
- Advertising Inserts
- Office Paper
- Chipboard
- Telephone Books
- Envelopes
- Manila File Folders
- Junk Mail
- Magazines, Catalogs
- Aluminum Cans
- Steel (tin) Food & Drink Cans
- #1-7 Plastics (no styrofoam)
- Yogurt or Margarine Tubs
- Deli / Salad Bar Clamshells
- Corrugated Cartons

For more information, go to <http://www.deffenbaughindustries.com>. ■

## Westport Road: A Little History

A friend complained the other day about the complicated intersection where Southwest Trafficway first crosses 43rd Street, and then Westport Road. He asked how (and why!) anyone would design an intersection like that.

The funny angles and weird intersections in and around Westport exist because the town of Westport was here first, before Kansas City enveloped it. Old John Calvin McCoy laid out the town lots and streets to be parallel and perpendicular to Westport Road. As the city of Kansas City grew southward from the river, it annexed Westport in 1897. Thus, Kansas City's north-south, east-west street grid was overlaid onto Westport's existing diagonal grid, creating some really odd intersections.

Of course, Old John Calvin could have been a little more geometrically cooperative in the first place. After all, he was a surveyor. But then, Westport Road was the sole reason why the town existed at all, as it *is* the Santa Fe Trail. On old maps of the late 1840s and 1850s, the road is identified as the "Westport Road and Santa Fe Trail." In McCoy's time, Westport Road was called "Main Street" by the locals, and Broadway was called "Main Cross Street."

It may be difficult to imagine, but it was said by an observer in the late 1840s that it was nearly impossible to cross Westport Road between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., so great was the volume of wagon traffic heading west. So my friend who complained about the weird intersection would have been stuck in gridlock, even back then! ■

## Beware of this scam!

KCP&L has reported occurrences of scam artists posing as KCP&L employees who threaten to disconnect a customer's service if payment is not made immediately to the caller. While KCP&L must make collection calls to customers, at this time all calls to residential customers ARE AUTOMATED.

Please do not be taken in by these phony "bill collectors." ■

For up-to-date information about activities, announcements, meeting schedule, newsletters (both current and archive), links to city services, West Plaza history, and more, visit WPNA's website at [www.westplaza.org](http://www.westplaza.org).

## 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 <a href="http://www.boozefish.com">www.boozefish.com</a></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>DANIE DUNN INTERIOR DESIGNS</b> 1801 Westport Road 816-561-7771</p> <p><b>DAVID ALLEN STATE FARM INS</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 <a href="http://www.dogsworldoffun.com">www.dogsworldoffun.com</a></p> <p><b>EDDIE DELAHUNT'S CAFÉ &amp;</b> 45th &amp; Bell Streets 816-753-3322</p> <p><b>FINAL DRAFT SECRETARIAL SERVICE</b> 4401 Genessee St. 816-931-2276 <a href="http://www.Finaldraftsecretarialservice.com">www.Finaldraftsecretarialservice.com</a></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>LOTUS SKIN CARE STUDIO</b> 4300 Bell St. Ste. 204 816-561-0555 <a href="mailto:Rachel@lotusskin.com">Rachel@lotusskin.com</a></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>STEVEN C. MINGOS &amp; ASSOCIATES</b> 4746 Belleview Ave. 816-531-8740 <a href="http://www.drmingos.com">www.drmingos.com</a></p> <p><b>MONTANARI FINE ART JEWELERS</b> 4810 Belleview Ave. 816-531-0750 <a href="http://www.montanarijewelers.com">www.montanarijewelers.com</a></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 CO 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>SADER LAW FIRM</b> 4739 Belleview Ave., Ste. 300 <a href="http://www.saderlawfirm.com">www.saderlawfirm.com</a></p> <p><b>SUNSHINE FLOWERS</b> 4509 Rainbow Blvd. 913-384-5034</p> <p><b>SWAYKIN DOULA SERVICES</b> 913-486-0550 <a href="http://www.swaykindoula.com">www.swaykindoula.com</a></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 NAIL SALON &amp; SPA</b> 4804 Belleview Ave. 816-931-0303</p> <p><b>YOGA FIX STUDIO</b> 2000 Shawnee Mission Parkway 913-384-3200 <a href="http://Hotyogakc.com">Hotyogakc.com</a></p>
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A \$25 business membership includes your name, address, and contact information in each WPNA newsletter.

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## Open House at Swinney

Please join us at Swinney Dual Language Elementary School for an Open House on Thursday, May 7, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Come and learn about our dual language program, the program that educates students in English and Spanish with the goal of bi-lingualism and bi-literacy in each language.

We are currently accepting applications from students coming into kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grades. Come and see what "twice the knowledge and twice the power" is all about! Swinney Dual Language Elementary School 1106 W. 47<sup>th</sup> Street. For additional information, call 816-418-6275

Students and staff at Swinney Dual Language Elementary School ask our kind neighbors to please clean up after their pets. Children walk and play on the lawn around the school, so please be considerate. Thanks!



Newsletter layout is provided compliments of Final Draft Secretarial Service. Printing is provided by Print Tekk Printing and Mailing. Both are West Plaza neighborhood businesses.

## 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](http://www.westplaza.org)

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:

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Business Member Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to help the neighborhood with:

Picnic  Property Maintenance/Zoning

Yard Sale  Neighborhood Clean-up

Crime Prevention  Meeting Refreshments

Newsletter Distribution  Gardening

[March-April 2009 Newsletter]