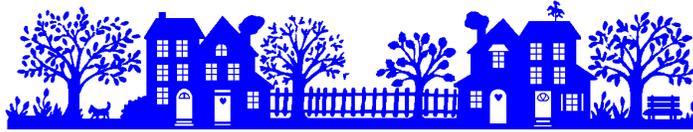


# WEST PLAZA

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



### Mark Your Calendar

**SPRING CLEANUP! (8 a.m.)**  
**ANNUAL PICNIC! (Noon to 3 p.m.)**  
**Saturday, May 12, 2012**

#### Westwood Park

**The upcoming semi-annual Spring Cleanup** will give you an opportunity to clean out your house and yard and deposit the refuse in dumpsters provided by the city and WPNA. It begins at 8 a.m. and runs until the dumpsters are full. Like the weather, the ending time is unpredictable; it could be mid-morning, or it could be noon, depending on how many people show up and when. The dumpsters – one for yard waste and one for household trash – will be parked on Wyoming, just south of 47th Street and east of Westwood Park. **You must be a resident of the West Plaza to participate in the cleanup.** We reserve the right to limit quantities. No hazardous waste (including paint), computer equipment, or tires. No commercial ventures, please. In consideration of the volunteers, please do not arrive early or leave items outside the bin.

**Our annual neighborhood picnic** will be held at the shelter house at Westwood Park from noon until 3 p.m. It will be a time to enjoy old friends and make new ones. Lots of fun activities (including a piñata) are planned for kids of all ages. Musical entertainment will be provided by...someone. We don't know who yet!

As always, the neighborhood association will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, potato chips, cold drinks, and dishware. Bring your own specialty side dish or a dessert to share with your neighbors.

Raffle prizes have been donated again this year by our loyal and generous business members. **You must be a member to enter the raffle**, so be sure your membership is current. There's a

registration form on page 6, and you can also renew or join at the picnic.

We depend on volunteers to make these events happen. **Those who volunteer at the cleanup or picnic will be eligible for an additional raffle ticket.** If you would like to help with the cleanup (a GREAT opportunity for dumpster diving!) or the picnic, call Julie (816-931-2276).

Bring the kids, a side dish, and a lawn chair. Friends and relatives are welcome, too! ■

### **Annual Neighborhood Yard Sales** **Saturday, June 2 and Free-for-All** **Event, Saturday, June 9**

If you're planning to have a yard sale this summer, why not have it during the annual West Plaza yard sale event on Saturday, June 2? To generate business for participating households, the WPNA will advertise the neighborhood sales on [Craigslistkc.com](http://Craigslistkc.com) and *The Kansas City Star* (print and online). We'll also create a flyer showing the addresses of the sales and a general description of what can be found at each.

To include your sale in the flyer, contact Julie Tenenbaum (816-931-2276 or [jatkc@aol.com](mailto:jatkc@aol.com)) no later than Wednesday, May 30, with a general description of what you'll be selling (note any special items), your address, email address, and phone number. The flyer will be emailed to participants in pdf format on Friday, June 1, so you can print it and distribute copies to visitors. All West Plaza residents are invited to participate in the yard sale event.

**The Third Annual Free-for-All** is yet another opportunity to pass along things that you no longer use or want. If you've had a yard sale and didn't sell everything – or if you just want to

(continued on p. 2)

## Springtime Pet Safety Tips

by Stephanie Murrell

As you spend time outdoors with your pet during the warm weather, protect them from these common springtime hazards.

**Structural damage:** Winter can wreak havoc on fences, decks, and steps. Check for rotten wood, protruding nails, and lifting paint on all outdoor surfaces that can be dangerous to pets.

**Poisonous plants and bulbs:** Bulbs like hyacinth, tulip, and daffodil have noxious effects on pets if chewed or swallowed. (Once these bulbs have flowered, they generally don't pose a threat.) Other plants like day and Japanese lilies can cause kidney damage to cats if only one or two leaves are ingested. This link documents 445 types of plants that are toxic to dogs and cats: <http://www.aspc.org/pet-care/poison-control/plants/> If you fear your pet may have eaten a potentially harmful plant, consult your vet immediately, or contact the APCC at [www.apcc.aspc.org](http://www.apcc.aspc.org) or 888-426-4435.

**Mulch:** Cocoa mulch contains two substances found in chocolate that are toxic to pets: theobomine and caffeine.

**Fertilizers:** Even organic fertilizers can be toxic to your pet. Blood and bone meal are commonly used meat-based, organic fertilizers that dogs may find irresistible. These substances can cause gastric distress, including vomiting and diarrhea; pure bone meal could cause an obstruction in the stomach. Other types of chemical fertilizers are typically not attractive to pets, but if they are mixed with blood and bone meal, the scent may invite a dog to eat them.

**Insecticides and herbicides:** Read the labels of lawn or garden sprays or powdered treatments. With many products, your pet can safely play on the treated area after 24 hours. Rat poison and gopher bait can cause vomiting, diarrhea, and/or drooling. Keep other poisons like citronella candles and ant traps away from pets.

**Fleas, Ticks, and Heartworms:** More time outdoors means more exposure to parasites. Keep your pets protected with topical treatments, sprays, or dips, and prevent fleas and ticks by treating your yard and home. It's important that all pets, both cats and dogs, receive regular heartworm preventative medication. ■

Source: PetFoodDirect.com

## New West Plaza Feral Cat Program

Are you dealing with outdoor (feral) cats? The West Plaza Neighborhood Association has recently initiated a program to help with issues that outdoor cats create, such as digging in gardens and defecation. We are partnering with Heartland SPCA to help establish population control with the proven trap/neuter/return (TNR) method.

Sharon Martin, long-time member and cat advocate, has volunteered to coordinate the work with Heartland SPCA and to help in other ways. She can be reached at 816-931-1194 (leave a message) or at [Feral\\_WPNA@kc.rr.com](mailto:Feral_WPNA@kc.rr.com) (checked in the evenings). Contact Sharon for assistance with feral cat-related issues. ■

## Free-for-All (continued from p. 1)

purge your home of no-longer-needed "stuff," bring everything\* to Immanuel Lutheran's Luther Hall (1700 Westport Road) on the evening of Friday, June 8 (5:30-7:00 p.m.) and spend a few minutes helping the volunteers put them in the appropriate section (housewares, clothes, kitchen items, toys, etc.).

At 8 a.m. on Saturday morning, come back and see what other people brought. **Then take whatever you want.** It's all free. This is a terrific way to recycle what is no longer useful to you, and to pick up – for no money at all – some new treasures. Leftovers will be given to charity.

This event has been hugely popular with both participants and volunteers. Call Julie at 816-931-2276 for more details. And of course, we are also looking for volunteers to staff the FFA. Call Julie!

\* Items must be clean, in usable condition, and easily carried. No hazardous materials, please, and no computers, electronics, or large appliances. ■

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## Garden Plans for 2012

by Ed O'Donnell

It seems like a long time ago, but still — thanks to Joe Montanari, Julie Tenenbaum, Sharon Pendleton, Denny Chase, and Dennis Walters for helping with the Fall Cleanup last November 19. We gathered 17 bags of leaves on an incredibly windy day, and the garden looked great throughout the winter.

Readers of this column know I like to liven up the perennials with a few annuals. Every year we have sunflowers, due to popular demand. We noticed last year that there were few (if any) caterpillars on the fennel. Apparently the Black Swallowtail like to lay their eggs on the leaves of carrot, not fennel. So this year we will plant carrots, and also basil.

I wanted to plant something new and eye catching so we will have “The Three Sisters,” a Native American tradition to grow corn, beans, and squash together. Indian corn and squash have already been planted, and when the corn is tall enough, pole beans will be planted nearby so they can use the stalk as a pole. One of the bean varieties is “Purple Pole,” which is purple until it is cooked. This should be an interesting and colorful year.

The workdays this year are Saturday, May 5, 9 a.m. to noon, to rake leaves and plant; and November 17, 9 a.m. to noon, to rake leaves. Also, we will meet every Wednesday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. for general garden maintenance. Bring your favorite garden tool and come to the garden!

*Editor's Note:* The West Plaza Garden is located at the junction of Roanoke Parkway, Jarboe, and 46th Streets. ■

## Garden Report, Part II

In his garden report (above), Ed was too modest to mention that the WPNA Board of Directors presented him with a plaque in a ceremony after the November cleanup to honor him for his dedicated service to the neighborhood. The text is as follows.

### Proclamation

### Honoring and Recognizing

Ed O'Donnell

for his tireless commitment to

The West Plaza Garden

**WHEREAS**, Ed O'Donnell researched, designed, laid out, dug up, cleaned up, and planted the West Plaza Garden and has watered and maintained it ever since; and

**WHEREAS**, Ed persevered on his own, through sweltering Kansas City summer days (even when other “volunteers” may have failed to show up); and

**WHEREAS**, Ed has led the effort to bring beauty to this small point of land at the entrance to the West Plaza; and

**WHEREAS**, Ed O'Donnell is an all-around swell fellow and an unparalleled asset to the neighborhood;

### NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

That the West Plaza Neighborhood Association extends to Ed O'Donnell our sincere thanks for his expertise and extraordinary effort put forth on behalf of the neighborhood.

Authenticated and Adopted this 19th Day of November 2011 by the WPNA Board of Directors.

## Home Security

by John Toms

Burglary and home invasions are occurring in some areas of West Plaza. (Detailed crime reports are available from James.Schriever@kcpd.org) It is important to take precautions to provide security for your home.

First, use common sense. Lock your doors, and purchase a deadbolt for any doors leading outside. Your windows should be secured with window locks. Dark outdoor areas are perfect for criminal activity, so a well-placed floodlight, especially motion-sensor lighting, could make all the difference. Motion-activated floodlights also improve security at the front and other entrances to your home.

Alarm systems are a good option, and a wide variety are available. Basic alarm systems are triggered when someone sets off the sensor, which is usually placed near the entrance to the home. The alarm

(continued on p. 8)

## Looking Back: Prudhomme's Legacy

by Joe Montanari

An 1855 map of Westport drawn by Charles C. Spalding shows a sizable tract of land with a large home about a block or so north and west of where Kelly's bar is located today. Spalding identified the property as "Mr. Purdom's." Though a competent surveyor and map maker, Spalding was apparently not fluent in French, for Mr. Purdom was actually Gabriel Prudhomme, a French Creole blacksmith employed by Francois Chouteau.

In 1829, Prudhomme had returned to the area from a trip to Montana and decided to settle here with his wife Susan, a Cree Indian. With the earnings from his trapping and trading expedition, Prudhomme began buying up property south of the river, between what is now Broadway and Forest. Prudhomme built Susan the home shown on Spalding's map, but he was not to enjoy it for long, as he was shot to death in November of 1831 in a barroom brawl. Prudhomme's estate was not settled until 1838, when the property was put up for auction.

The 220-acre tract went on the auction block on November 14, 1838, before a group of twenty or thirty of Westport's leading citizens. When the auctioneer brought the hammer down, the high bid was \$4,220, and the winning bidder was William Sublette, spokesman for the Kansas Town Company, whose ranks included Moses G. Wilson, John C. McCoy, William M. Gillis, Fry P. McGee, Abraham Fonda, William Miles Chick, Oliver Caldwell, George W. Tate, William Collins, James Smart, Samuel C. Owens, Russell Hicks, and Henry Jobe.

When the "Town of Kansas" was finally incorporated in June of 1850, it was on this very land, which had been Gabriel Prudhomme's farm. In 1889, it was renamed Kansas City.

Although Prudhomme is a fairly common French name, it was not at all common in French Canada or here in the Upper Louisiana Territory. The only reference to be found is that of Pierre Prudhomme, who had accompanied LaSalle and Tonty on their expedition of discovery down the Mississippi in 1682. In 1683, LaSalle appointed Prudhomme commandant of a small log fort near present-day Memphis, which came to be known as Fort Prudhomme.

Although no one knows for sure, it is not at all unlikely that our Gabriel Prudhomme was a descendant of one of the men who discovered the Mississippi River. ■

*Sources:* Charles Hoffhaus, *Chez Les Canses*; David Boutross, et al., *Cher Oncle, Cher Papa*; Louis O. Honig, *Westport, Gateway to the Early West*.

*Editor's Note:* An image of the 1855 Spalding map can be found in the Missouri Valley Special Collections of the Kansas City, Missouri Public Library.

## Litter on a Stick

by Dennis Walters

As you've walked or driven around the neighborhood, you've probably noticed signs placed on telephone poles and in parkways of heavily traveled streets, usually advertising quick weight loss, replacement windows, or electrical services. You might think these signs are an eyesore and detract from the appearance of our neighborhood. They do. But you might not realize it's also against the law to post (or plant) these signs.

### **Kansas City Ordinance Section 4-1** Placing Signs Or Advertising Material On Public Property

It shall be unlawful for any person, except a public employee acting within the scope of employment, to cause to be, or to place, print, nail, tack or otherwise fix or fasten, any card, placard, banner, bill, handbill, sign, poster, advertising, notice or other paper or device of any kind on any curbstone, lamppost, street or sidewalk surface, pole, bridge or tree upon a public street or any marquee or projecting sign over a property, a public highway or other public property within the city.

Even yard sale and lost pet signs are technically illegal. While no one would be heartless enough to take down a lost dog or lost cat sign, it's important that those who post them be good neighbors. When the yard sale is over or the pet is found, take down your signs. And NEVER staple a sign to a tree! ■

*Editor's Note:* The West Plaza Watch Facebook group, which was created specifically to reunite lost pets with their owners and to address safety concerns, now has 200+ members. If you're not yet a member, go to Facebook.com, then to West Plaza Watch, and ask to join.

## Letting Go of Useful Clutter

by Mary Ellen Vincent, Professional Organizer

Many people collect things and hang on to them because they “may be useful” one day. Or they seem too valuable or too important or too environmentally hazardous to throw away. Or they just don’t know what to do with them.

Perhaps it’s a human instinct to preserve materials we may need in the future that drives us to save things like cardboard boxes or pieces of wood or metal cans. We think we may regret having thrown them away, if and when the day ever comes when we could have used them.

Collecting material for future use becomes a problem when it interferes with our lives. Using the example of cardboard boxes, it’s time to take action when –

- There are so many boxes that family members complain they’re in their way or they’re a fire hazard.
- The boxes start to decay or collect dust, bugs, or rodents.
- You’ve lost track of how many boxes you have and yet you can’t stop bringing more home and saving them.

For people who collect materials because they might use them someday or because they don’t want to waste them or because they would pollute the environment if they’re thrown in the trash (e.g., batteries), it’s often a relief to give them to someone who can use them right now. Here are some common items people collect and ways to reuse/recycle them:

### **Styrofoam blocks or coolers or peanuts** (clean, white, and bagged).

- Can be recycled at ACH Foam Technologies, 1400 N. 3rd Street, Kansas City, KS 66101
- Accepts materials Monday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- Call 913-321-4114 or go to [www.achfoam.com](http://www.achfoam.com)

**Metal furniture**, fencing, sheet metal, window frames, appliance pieces, pots and pans, screws, nails, bars, poles, structural pieces. Any type of metal, any combination of metals. No plastic or other materials.

- Can be recycled at Bridging the Gap Community Recycling Centers

- Accept material Wednesday-Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
- Call 816-561-1087 or go to [www.bridgingthegap.org](http://www.bridgingthegap.org) for location information

### **Batteries and Prescription Medications**

- Can be disposed of at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility, 4707 Deramus Ave., Kansas City, MO 64120
- Accepts material Thursday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. & Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. by appointment only.
- Call 816-513-8400 or go to [www.kcmo.org](http://www.kcmo.org)

**Plastic bags** from retail and grocery stores, dry-cleaning bags, bread bags, newspaper sleeves, plastic wrapping from bulk paper towels/bathroom tissue/napkins/diapers.

- Can be recycled at most grocery stores! Add “recycle plastic bags” to your grocery list.

**Art supplies** including string, yarn, ribbon, glue, paint, leftovers from art projects, game pieces, paper, fun and funky bits of tile, colored glass, and much more.

- Contact Jeanne [je10825@swbell.net](mailto:je10825@swbell.net) at Westport Center for the Arts or go to [www.westportcenterforthearts.org](http://www.westportcenterforthearts.org)

**Electronics** – computers, stereos, televisions. Working or not, new or old.

- Can be sold, repaired, or recycled at MoKan-Goodwill locations – for free! The proceeds benefit people with disabilities or disadvantages in our community.
- Call 816-842-7245 or go to [www.mokangoodwill.org](http://www.mokangoodwill.org)

**Building supplies**, including lumber, appliances, lighting fixtures, furniture, shelving, shades, sinks, tubs, tile, countertops, and much more. Used or new.

- Can be resold through ReStore, with the proceeds benefiting Habit for Humanity.
- Will arrange pick up for large items or many items.
- Call 1-800-habitat (422-4828) or visit [www.restorekc.org](http://www.restorekc.org)

And by the way, those ubiquitous cardboard boxes are best recycled at the curb or at your local recycling center, unless you can find an immediate use for them, such as giving them to a neighbor who is moving. ■

### Feral Cat Issues?

Contact Sharon Martin  
816-931-1194  
Feral\_WPNA@kc.rr.com  
- A New WPNA Program -



### Don't Wear It Anymore?

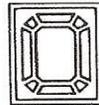
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Please fill out the information below and return along with your check to:  
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www.westplaza.org • Facebook: West Plaza Neighborhood Association

Check One: New  Renewal

Household (\$12)  Senior (\$7)  Business (\$25)  + Donation \_\_\_\_\_ = TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

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  Meeting Refreshments

Newsletter Distribution  Gardening

[May-June 2012]

## 2012 WPNA Calendar

### General Membership Meetings (7-8 p.m.)

#### Location: Immanuel Lutheran Church

1700 Westport Road *(use the north-most door on the west side of the church)*

WPNA general membership meetings are held on the third Tuesday of odd numbered months.

July 17      September 18      November 20

West Plaza Garden Planting: Sat., May 5, 9 -12  
Spring Cleanup & Picnic: Sat., May 12, Westwood Park Shelter House

Neighborhood Yard Sales: Sat., June 2  
Free-for-All Drop-off: Fri., June 8, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Free-for-All Event: Sat., June 9, 8:00-10:30 a.m.

Dance in the Park: Saturday, September 8

Fall Cleanup: Sat., October 20, Westwood Park

West Plaza Garden Cleanup: Sat., Nov. 17, 9-12

West Plaza Garden General Maintenance: Every Wednesday, 6:30-7:30 p.m.



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Printing of the newsletter for the 1,100 residences in our neighborhood is generously provided by Print Tekk, a West Plaza neighborhood business and member of the WPNA. They also offer **FREE** copies from paper originals (within reason) for current members of the West Plaza Neighborhood Association.

West Plaza Neighborhood Association Newsletter  
Edited by Julie A. Tenenbaum

Address: 4401 Genessee, Kansas City, MO 64111

Phone: 816-931-2276 Email: [jatkc@aol.com](mailto:jatkc@aol.com)

Submit suggestions for newsletter articles 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.

Display advertising rates for members:

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

Display advertising rates for non-members: Add \$20.



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## Contact the WPNA

### Website:

[www.WestPlaza.org](http://www.WestPlaza.org)

### Facebook:

West Plaza Neighborhood Association-Discussion Group  
West Plaza Watch

### Email:

[wpnakc@gmail.com](mailto:wpnakc@gmail.com)

### U.S. Mail:

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A \$25 Business Membership includes your name and contact information in each WPNA newsletter.

\* New member this month

<p><b>ACT II</b> 1417 W. 47th St. 816-531-7572</p> <p><b>AMERICAN BEAUTY</b> 4436 State Line Road 913-236-0008 www.AmericanBeautyKC.com</p> <p><b>BOOZEFISH WINE BAR</b> 1511 Westport Road 816-561-5995 www.boozefish.com</p> <p><b>BROOKFIELD'S GREAT WATER</b> 2500 West Pennway 913-648-1234</p> <p><b>CARLA A. KING, D.D.S.</b> 315 Nichols Road, Suite 217 816-931-0074 Carla5626@gmail.com</p> <p><b>CATHY'S CLIP &amp; CURL SALON</b> 4301 Wyoming St. 816-561-2331</p> <p><b>*CHOP TOPS</b> 611 West 39th Street 816-753-2467 Choptops.biz</p> <p><b>DOGS' WORLD OF FUN</b> 1220 W. 31st St. 816-931-5822 www.dogsworldoffun.com</p> <p><b>DRESSQUEST</b> 1807 West 45th St. 816-361-4696 DressQuest.com</p> <p><b>EDDIE DELAHUNT'S CAFÉ &amp;</b> 4448 Bell St. 816-753-3322</p> <p><b>EYE CARE OPTICAL</b> 816-753-2020 4233 Roanoke Road www.eyecare-optical.com</p>	<p><b>FINAL DRAFT SECRETARIAL SERVICE</b> 4401 Genessee St. 816-931-2276 www.Finaldraftsecretarialservice.com</p> <p><b>GARY JENKINS ATTORNEY AT LAW</b> 816-868-3565</p> <p><b>HAIR STYLE</b> 4500 Bell St. 816-531-4545</p> <p><b>JAMES HOFFMAN</b> Bookkeeping &amp; Tax Preparation 4400 Roanoke Parkway 913-486-2630</p> <p><b>JENNINGS TREE &amp; LAWN CARE</b> 4504 State Line Road 816-931-3399</p> <p><b>JOHNNIE JO'S PIZZERIA</b> 1209 W. 47th St. 816-401-4483</p> <p><b>KATHE KAUL ESTATE SALES</b> 816-960-1947</p> <p><b>KURT AARONS, DDS</b> 4411 Belleview Ave. 816-531-2070</p> <p><b>LAW OFFICES OF CHARLES W. GOTSCHALL</b> 4700 Belleview, Ste. 215 816-561-2300 www.lawyers-kc.com</p> <p><b>LOTUS SKIN CARE</b> 4300 Bell Street, Ste. 204 816-561-0555</p> <p><b>MARSH'S SUNFRESH MARKET</b> 4001 Mill St. 816-931-1639</p> <p><b>MONTANARI FINE ART JEWELERS</b> 4810 Belleview Ave. 816-531-0750 www.montanarijewelers.com</p>	<p><b>ORGANIZE ME</b> 816-529-6901 www.organizemeinkc.com</p> <p><b>PRINT TEKK PRINTING &amp; MAILING</b> 4312 Terrace 816-931-4122</p> <p><b>SANTA FE INVESTMENTS, LLC</b> 4739 Belleview Ave. 753-2600</p> <p><b>SCANDINAVIAN CO-OP LLC</b> 4027 N. Main 913-206-1738</p> <p><b>*SCOTT BURNETT</b> Jackson County Legislator Burnett.scott@gmail.com</p> <p><b>SHANNON BASHAM</b> Registered Yoga Alliance Teacher WITS Certified Personal Trainer AHA Certified CPR Trainer 816-810-3623</p> <p><b>SHELTON TRAVEL SERVICE</b> 4800 Belleview Ave. 816-753-4888 www.sheltontravel.com</p> <p><b>STEVEN C. MINGOS DDS &amp; ASSOC</b> 4746 Belleview Ave. 816-531-8740 www.drmingos.com</p> <p><b>SUNSHINE FLOWERS</b> 4509 Rainbow Blvd. 913-384-5034</p> <p><b>VALLEY VIEW BANK</b> 4550 Belleview Ave. 913-381-3311</p> <p><b>YOUR BUSINESS NAME HERE</b> Support the West Plaza Neighborhood Association and let us help support you!</p>
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## Home Security (continued from p. 3)

will alert anyone in the home and people on the street to any breaking and entering activity. More sophisticated security systems have sensors for windows as well.

More extensive security systems will transmit an electronic signal upon entry that may call your cell phone or alert local authorities. They may also use silent alarms that fool criminals into thinking they've broken into a house without security measures. Silent alarms may be useful during vacations or other extended periods away from home, but it is not advisable to use them when you are sleeping in the residence. High dollar systems may also include security cameras, sound-activated alarms, and so forth.

Home security packages are available through many different venues. It's important to consider your needs and how much you're willing to spend on security measures. When choosing among home safety options, select a system that is both effective and practical for your circumstances. ■