

WEST PLAZA

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



Mark Your Calendar

Upcoming General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, July 17, 2012, 7-8 p.m.

Immanuel Lutheran Church

1700 Westport Road

Guest Speaker: Master Patrol Officer James Schriever, Kansas City Police Department

The West Plaza neighborhood has been experiencing an unusual number of break-ins recently (see accompanying article, right), despite the efforts of our police department and our community to prevent them. Master Patrol Officer Jim Schriever, KCPD, our guest speaker, will talk about ways to burglar-proof our homes and make our automobiles less attractive to would-be thieves. Please come to this evening of practical safety information.

A raffle for a door prize provided by one of our business members will end the evening. ■

Thank You!

A big thank you to the following businesses who provided picnic supplies, door prizes, and donations for our spring picnic.

Chop Tops

Eddie Delahunt's Café &

Hair Style

Johnnie Jo's Pizzeria

Marsh's Sun Fresh

Picasso Dog Groomery

Print Tekk

Pryde's in Westport

Rainbow Thrift & More

Sheehan's Irish Imports

Sunshine Flowers

Westlake Hardware

And many thanks to Three Dollar Band for their music and the volunteers who made the cleanup and picnic possible. ■

Amended Ordinance Provides Help to Neighborhoods & Police

by John Toms

On May 24, 2012, the City Council amended an ordinance (local law) which makes it illegal to prowl during the daylight hours. This may not seem like a big change, but prior to this, the ordinance read only "in the nighttime." Now any person who wanders, prowls, or loiters on the private property of another and peeks or peers into the door or window of any building or structure which is inhabited by humans beings, without any visible or lawful business with the owners or occupants thereof, commits the offense of disorderly conduct, regardless of the time of day or night of the occurrence. Prior to the amendment, if a person was prowling a house in West Plaza and the police were called and the person was up to no good, the police could not charge the prowler with this offense. Now they can.

Most of the recent break-ins in our neighborhood have been occurring during the daylight hours. Do not think twice if you see something that does not look right to you. Call 911 and let the police determine what is going on.

This amendment was approved by the full council, and they should be commended for this type of positive help to all who live and work in the City of Kansas City. ■

Yard Sales and Free for All

June was a busy month in the West Plaza.

Twenty families held yard sales (very successfully, by all accounts), and at the Third Annual Free for All the following weekend, attendees chose whatever they wanted from the donated leftovers. The "leftover leftovers" were given to Ozanam. Thanks to Immanuel Lutheran for once again generously providing the space for the event. ■

Summer Lawn Care Tips

by Stephanie Murrell



Summer brings glorious days of warm weather and outdoor activities that keep us outside for hours at a time. For some, most of those hours are used maintaining a healthy lawn around their homes. While some home-

owners know exactly what their lawn needs, others might have trouble keeping their grass healthy and may be looking at a barren, dry lawn by the time fall rolls around. Below are some tips to keep your lawn healthy.

Healthy grass is not necessarily short. When cutting your lawn, set the mower blade as high as possible. Tall blades of grass can obtain more light during peak sun hours and use this energy to produce and send more nutrients to the roots and surrounding soil. Taller blades also provide shade that allows the soil surrounding each blade of grass to maintain moisture throughout the dry heat of summer days.

Clippings are not waste. As you mow, allow the shredded grass to fall back into the lawn and soil. The cut blades will supply the soil with added nutrients and additional shade.

Fertilizing is vital to the health of your grass. Most organic fertilizers used at the beginning of spring give the soil an abundance of nutrients to encourage rapid growth. Most winterizing fertilizers applied in the fall help the soil to capture and store nutrients during the harsh winter weather.

Any patches of lawn that do not grow properly need to be seeded. Seeding barren patches more than once will cause the soil to be overworked; seed them only once and maintain a proper watering schedule on those parts for best results.

Remove weeds as soon as possible to catch them before they have a chance to grow roots and stake a claim in the soil.

Hydration is essential to the growth and nutrition of your lawn. The landscape surrounding your home needs to have at least an inch of water weekly, either from rain or your water hose. Water as early in the day as possible so the soil can absorb moisture before sun and heat have a chance to dry it up. ■

Source: HGTV

The 14th Annual Dance in the Park, September 8, 2012

The 14th annual Dance in the Park will be presented on Saturday, September 8, 2012, in the tranquil setting of Roanoke Park. DITP showcases the exciting performances of a host of the Kansas City region's unique dance companies. This free event invites neighbors to gather and share the fun with their friends and family. The event starts at 6:30 p.m. with a free dance class, during which audience members of all ages are invited onstage for a lesson with professional dancers. The show starts at 7:00 p.m. Bring a blanket, lawn chairs, a picnic, and the whole family!

Dance in the Park is produced by City in Motion Dance Theater in conjunction with the Volker, Roanoke, Valentine, Coleman Highlands, and West Plaza neighborhood associations. Volunteers are needed in the following areas to make this event a success:

June, July, August: fundraising and marketing

2-3 days prior to the event: stage and tent set-up, stage crew for tech rehearsal

Evening of the event: greeters, stage crew, parking control, recycling, clean-up

If you would like to help, please contact:

Andrea Skowronek, Artistic Co-Director, City in Motion Dance Theater, andreaskowronek@yahoo.com, 816-210-1192

June Holte, Volunteer Coordinator, msjunie@gmail.com, 816-678-1107 ■

Garden Volunteer Reminder

Every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. we meet at the West Plaza Garden to keep it looking beautiful. Come on down and dig in the dirt! The Garden is located at the junction of Roanoke Parkway, 46th Street, and Jarboe.

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August Primary Election

by Brad McCormack

On August 7, 2012, we will again be asked to go to the polls to vote in a primary for the upcoming November election. The ballot in the West Plaza this year will have some familiar faces but will also have a few changes. Thanks to the re-districting that took place this past year, the borders of our Missouri House District have changed. The entire neighborhood is now inside the boundaries of the 24th House District, which stretches north and includes a large share of downtown Kansas City.

The August ballot has a primary battle between two Democrats, while one Republican will run unopposed. Judy Morgan, the current legislator for our district, is running for re-election to her own first term (she is currently finishing the term of Jean Peters-Baker, our County Prosecutor). Her opponent is LGBT Activist Sarah Gillooly. The winner of that match will take on Jonathan Sternberg, a local Kansas City lawyer, in the November election.

Also because of the re-districting, the WPNA (and Kansas City as a whole) are no longer in the 10th Senate District, currently represented by Jolie Justus. Our Senate representation is now District 7, which will feature a Democratic primary battle in August as well. Crystal Williams, a current Jackson County Legislator, is taking on Jason Holsman, a current member of the Missouri House. As there is no Republican in the race, the winner of this primary will be the new Senator representing Kansas City in the Missouri Legislature. ■

A Kansas City All-Star Summer

by Cameron Brookfield

By now you should be aware that Kansas City will be hosting Major League Baseball's All-Star Game, also known as the "Midsummer Classic," from July 6 to 10. With a global reach, this will be the biggest event Kansas City has seen in a long time. Whether or not you're an avid baseball fan, this is one event we as Kansas Citians should welcome: about 30 million viewers in 217 countries will watch the game that determines home field advantage in this year's World Series.

What does this 5-day event have in store? There are plenty of ways to enjoy the action. Over this extended Friday through Tuesday weekend, FanFest will be a large part of the local entertainment, taking place in the Kansas City Convention Center.

Friday, July 6: Military Appreciation Day

Opening ceremony honoring members of the U.S. Armed Forces

Saturday, July 7: Kids' Day

Fitness and nutrition clinics, face painters, balloon artists, and musical acts

Sunday, July 8: Kansas City Tribute Day

Celebrate culture and Kansas City's rich history

- Doubleheader Futures Game, 4 p.m., Kauffman Stadium
- Legends & Celebrities Softball Game, 7:30 p.m., Kauffman Stadium

Monday, July 9: Legacy Day

Celebrate players and lasting moments in MLB history

- Home Run Derby, 7 p.m., Kauffman Stadium

Tuesday, July 10: All-Star Legends Day

A celebration of Kansas City's third All-Star game. Royals players from 1960 and 1973 will be on hand.

- 2012 All-Star Game, 7 p.m., Kauffman Stadium

After a one-year hiatus, the Charity 5K and Fun Run returns, a collective fundraiser to fight cancer benefiting the Prostate Cancer Foundation, Stand Up to Cancer, and the Susan G. Komen for the Cure. The event will be held in downtown Kansas City on Sunday, July 8, at 7:30 a.m. Entry fee ranges from \$15 to \$25 depending on age and run selection.

It's less than a month away! Are you ready? ■

By the (Estimated) Numbers:

- KCMO City budget for improvements and police overtime: \$900,000
- Boost to local economy: \$60,000,000
- Visitor draw: 150,000

Looking Back: Jim Bridger, Mountain Man

by Joe Montanari

Just north of the intersection of Westport Road and Broadway is a small park featuring a bronze statue of three early Westport pioneers. The tall fellow standing on the left with his “stovepipe” hat in hand is Alexander Majors, founder of the Pony Express. Seated in the middle with a map unfurled across his lap is John Calvin McCoy, the surveyor who founded the Town of West Port. Seated to McCoy’s right is a rough-looking frontiersman with his Kentucky rifle in hand. That’s Jim Bridger, perhaps the most famous of all the “Mountain Men.”

Born in Virginia in 1804, James Felix Bridger was 17 years old when he responded to an advertising flyer from General William Henry Ashley “To Enterprising Young Men: The Subscriber wishes to engage One Hundred men to ascend the River Missouri to its source, to be employed one, two, or three years...” Ashley intended to follow Louis and Clark’s route upriver, to open the newly acquired Louisiana Territory for fur trading. As the youngest member of Ashley’s Upper Missouri Expedition, Bridger was one of the first white men to see the geysers of Yellowstone, and in the winter of 1824, was the first to see the Great Salt Lake.

In 1830, at age 26, Bridger bought out Ashley to form the Rocky Mountain Fur Company. In 1843, he and his partner Pierre Luis Vasquez (known to the mountain men as “Old Vaskiss”) built Fort Bridger on the Blacks Fork of the Green River near modern Lyman, Wyoming, to serve pioneers on the Oregon Trail. Often towering over 10,000 feet, the Rocky Mountains posed a great challenge to the pioneers traveling in ox-drawn wagon trains. In 1850, Bridger discovered a pass in southwestern Wyoming with an elevation of only 7,530 feet, which shortened the Oregon Trail by more than 61 miles. Bridger Pass was later selected as the route for the Transcontinental Railroad and later still, modern Interstate 80.

In 1864, Bridger blazed a trail from Wyoming to the gold fields of Montana, thus avoiding the Bozeman Trail, where Indian raids had made travel increasingly hazardous. In 1865, Major General Grenville Dodge led an army expedition against the Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians, who were menacing the Bozeman, with Bridger serving as guide and scout. Bridger left the army at Fort

Leavenworth in 1865, returning home to Westport. The oldest surviving Mountain Man, Bridger died here in 1881 and was buried in Mount Washington Cemetery in Independence. The street running north from 43rd Street to Westport Road, between Washington Street and Jefferson, was renamed Bridger Road in the early 1990s to honor this great American pioneer.

General Dodge later wrote Bridger’s biography, describing his friend as “a very companionable man. In person, he was over six feet tall, spare, straight as an arrow, agile, raw-boned and of powerful frame, eyes gray, hair brown and abundant even in old age, expression mild and manners agreeable. He was hospitable, and generous, and was always trusted and respected.” Conversant in French, Spanish, and several Native American languages, Bridger was an avid storyteller with a ready wit, who enjoyed telling his listeners of the petrified forest he had seen “where there are petrified birds, singing petrified songs.”

In the late 1980s, the Westport Historical Society commissioned the heroic bronze statue of Majors, McCoy, and Bridger and the handsome terrazzo map of the frontier at Pioneer Park as a tribute to three men who may be considered Kansas City’s founding fathers. ■

Thanks to The Westport Historical Society; *The Mountain Men: Pathfinders of the West* by Emily Zimmerman; and Wikipedia.



Alexander Majors, John Calvin McCoy, and Jim Bridger
Modern biographer Stanley Vestal calls Bridger “one of the greatest explorers and pathfinders in American history.”

Special Curfew Is In Effect

Last year the City Council enacted an ordinance by emergency action, declaring changes to the City's curfew ordinance. The city's curfew policy is as follows.

For the summer months, from the Friday preceding Memorial Day through the last Sunday in September, the curfew for minors under 16 is 10:00 p.m. For minors ages 16 and 17, the curfew is 11:00 p.m.

The Council also designated five areas – the Plaza, Westport, Downtown/Central Business District, 18th and Vine, and Zona Rosa – that will have a 9:00 p.m. curfew for anyone under 18.

In October, the curfew will revert for all minors under 18 to 11:00 p.m. on weekdays and midnight on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Any minor violating the new curfew ordinance will be detained and their parents called to pick them up. Parents will be ticketed with a fine of up to \$500 for each offense.

Exceptions for the curfew include:

- When a minor is attending an event for which the City has specifically approved the presence of unaccompanied minors upon City property;
- When a minor is accompanied by his or her parent, guardian, or other adult person having the lawful care and custody of the minor;
- When the minor is on an emergency errand directed by his or her parent or guardian or other adult person having the lawful care and custody of such minor;
- When the minor is returning directly home from a school activity, school entertainment, school recreational activity, or school dance;
- When the minor is returning directly home from lawful employment that makes it necessary to be in the places referenced in this section during the prescribed period of time;
- When the minor is attending or traveling directly to or from an activity involving the exercise of first amendment rights of free speech, freedom of assembly, or free exercise of religion; and
- In interstate travel through the city. ■

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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

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I would like to help the neighborhood with:

Picnic [] Property Maintenance/Zoning []

Yard Sale [] Neighborhood Clean-up []

Crime Prevention [] Meeting Refreshments []

Newsletter Distribution [] Gardening []

[July-August 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

Dance in the Park: Saturday, September 8

Fall Cleanup: Sat., October 20 (tentative), 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

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.

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Business card	\$25	Half page	\$50
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2012 WPNA Business Members

Please support the businesses that support your neighborhood.

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

* New member this month

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No Fireworks in the Park!



One of the many services provided by the WPNA is patrolling Westwood Park during the July 4th holiday to enforce KCMO Ordinance Section 26-3309.1, which prohibits possession and/or use of fireworks. Westwood Park

Homes Association co-sponsors this effort to maintain a peaceful neighborhood during the holiday by sharing the expense of hiring security for park patrol. Notices are posted around the perimeter of the park; fireworks are subject to confiscation, and violators are subject to arrest. ■