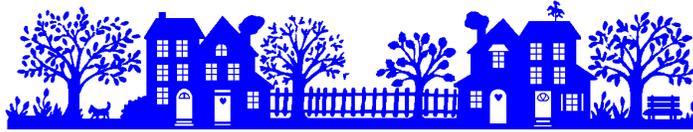


WEST PLAZA

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



Mark Your Calendar

Upcoming General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, September 18, 2012, 7-8 p.m.
Immanuel Lutheran Church
1700 Westport Road
Guest Speaker: Brad McCormack

Voters in Kansas City recently passed Questions 1 and 2, two initiatives with far-reaching effects (see article on page 3). Brad McCormack, WPNA board member, will explain the details of these changes and answer our questions about them.

A raffle for a gift certificate to Boozefish Wine Bar, one of our loyal and supportive business members, will end the evening. ■

There's a New Blog in Town: MidtownKCPost.com

by Mary Jo Draper

Editor's Note: I'm proud to be the editor of the WPNA newsletter, but I've always been aware of its limitation: We publish every other month, which leaves a huge time gap between issues. Now, I am happy to report, there's a new blog in town, and it's all about Midtown. In fact, its format is called "hyperlocal." I'm excited about it because it brings local news to the neighborhoods every weekday. Here's how the editor, Mary Jo Draper, describes the blog.

The Midtown KC Post is an online news site and community building tool. One way to think about the Post is that it's like a big neighborhood newsletter. We're looking for stories about issues, people, and events that are important to folks who live in Midtown. But we also want to encourage people to get more involved and active in their community, and we want to partner with other organizations to help that happen.

Continued on p. 2

Fall Cleanup Scheduled for Saturday, October 20

The semi-annual West Plaza cleanup, one of the most popular activities the WPNA sponsors, will be held on Saturday, October 20. This is your opportunity to clean out your house and yard and deposit the refuse in dumpsters provided by the city and the West Plaza Neighborhood Association. The event 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. It is free to all residents of the neighborhood, whether or not you are a member of WPNA. It is staffed by volunteers who use their time, energy, and strong backs to help people get their debris from their car or truck into the dumpsters.

One of the most interesting elements of the event is the Curb Collectibles. If something is deemed to be too good for the landfill, we display it on the curb and entice others to take it home. We've had some excellent synchronicities — the best being the Vornado that was missing its stand that was taken by a neighbor who had a stand that was missing its Vornado!

The Rules. You must be a resident of the West Plaza to participate. Yard waste can be brought loose, but if it is in bags, they must be paper. We reserve the right to limit quantities. No hazardous waste, paint, computer equipment, electronics, or tires. No commercial ventures. In consideration of the volunteers, please do not arrive early or leave items outside the bins. ■

MidtownKCPost.com Continued from p. 1

As we get started, we're building relationships with people who are already reporting on community issues so that more people can be aware of what is going on across neighborhoods. In the future, expect us to convene community conversations both online and face-to-face, where we can meet as neighbors and discuss important topics.

Right now the Midtown KC Post is strictly a volunteer effort. Mary Jo Draper, former president of Valentine and the editor of its newsletter, writes daily news posts. Julie Tenenbaum of West Plaza is volunteering as our proofreader, and Mark Dillion, editor of the *Hyde Parker*, is sharing the well-researched stories he prepares each month. Other folks are contributing reports from various neighborhood newsletters as well. We hope to sell advertising and find other sources of revenue in the future so we can keep building momentum. We're affiliated with the [Prairie Village Post](#), which has successfully covered Prairie Village, KS for the past several years.

For local news that's relevant to you and your neighborhood, visit [MidtownKCPost.com](#) every weekday. ■

Father Glenn Mueller Leaves Guardian Angels Parish

by Harold Scott

After fifteen years of service at Guardian Angels Catholic Church, Father Glenn Mueller has been reassigned to St. Charles Borromeo Church in Grand Coteau, Louisiana.

Father Glenn leaves a legacy of inclusion and acceptance of others during his years in the midtown area. He always started his masses by welcoming visitors who were attending the service. In a recent interview, Father Glenn was asked about the high points of his time at Guardian Angels. He stated, "The high point has been the warmth and friendliness of the people toward me and each other. I've been so impressed with the way everyone reaches out and goes out of their way to help one other with big and small needs. You have taught me so much about acceptance and caring. This has been a help to change and become warmer and a more welcoming person."

Father Glenn will be missed by the parishioners in the West Plaza community. ■

Neighborhood Watch

by John Toms

In case you have not noticed, volunteers are in the process of installing new Neighborhood Watch signs around West Plaza that warn, "We report suspicious activity. We call 9-1-1." In the past few weeks, Joe Montanari, Steven Dirks, and Joe Padilla braved the soaring temperatures to take down old, rusty crime watch signs and post shiny new ones.

A Neighborhood Watch program works through the mutual aid of neighbors watching out for each other. If your neighbors know who you are, what type of car you drive, and who is normally at your residence, they can call 9-1-1 when appropriate to report suspicious activity. A patrol officer driving by your home might not recognize someone at your front door as a stranger. An alert neighbor can.

Neighborhood Watch does not promote vigilantism; it recommends only that you become the "eyes and ears" of your block. Members of Neighborhood Watch groups are never asked to put themselves in harm's way to prevent crime. They observe and report suspicious activities to the Police Department by calling 9-1-1. This leaves the responsibility for confronting and apprehending criminals with your Kansas City police officers.

If you have a "nosy neighbor," you should take them a treat ever so often and thank them for watching out for you and the block. And you can return the favor by becoming a nosy neighbor yourself and watching out for them, as well.

The Neighborhood Watch program can be the most effective crime prevention program there is. If you want to learn more, call Master Patrol Officer Jim Schriever, Central Patrol Division, 816-719-8350. ■

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Questions 1 and 2 and What They Mean to You

by Brad McCormack

On Tuesday, August 7, Kansas City voters approved Questions 1 and 2 by overwhelming numbers. So what does that mean to you as a citizen of Kansas City?

Question 1 will set into motion many moving parts to redesign and increase the funding to the KC Parks Department. First, the \$12.50 vehicle tax that all KCMO residents previously paid is now gone, so any KCMO resident who re-tags their car in August will see a reduced charge. That specific tax was used to fund community centers throughout the city. These centers will now be funded through the Parks Department. Also gone are three separate property taxes that KCMO residents paid, so when property tax bills come out, they will reflect a reduction as well.

The funding that is lost from those four taxes will now be replaced by a city-wide ½ percent sales tax. The purpose of this tax is two-fold: (1) It will increase the amount of money going to the Parks Department, and (2) It will spread the financial burden to everyone who enjoys Kansas City parks, not just KCMO residents. This new sales tax will ensure that residents of other Missouri cities and all the Kansas suburbs will now help KCMO residents fund our beautiful parks. It will also create money that will be specifically used to improve Kansas City street maintenance. KCMO residents can expect in the future to see more work on our streets, as well as an increase in money to all of our parks.

KCMO faces a \$2 billion cost to improve and repair our antiquated sewer system. Question 2 will allow the city to assist in the cost of the sewer maintenance repair that the city is currently undertaking by fronting the first \$500 million in fees. This will help residents with the eventual increase in sewer fees. While it is unfortunate this will not cover all of the increase (meaning our water bills will go up), it will mitigate the increase. It will prevent the average sewer bill from jumping from \$20 in 2012 to a possible \$80 in 2013. ■

14th Annual Dance in the Park

Roanoke Park

September 8, 2012, 7:00 p.m.

Curbside Glass Recycling

Reprinted from MidtownKCPost.com



Midtown is one of the locations where Damon (“Dam”) Wittenborn sees a new business opportunity for glass recycling. While the city

picks up recycling at the curb, it doesn’t take glass. [Ripple Glass](#) has collection bins where residents can drop off glass. Now Wittenborn is proposing to fill in the gap by offering curbside glass pickup directly to homeowners. His new company, Atlas Glass, has been taking subscriptions for curbside pickup for just over a month.

Pickup every other week costs \$60 for a six-month subscription or \$110 for a year-long subscription. Weekly pickup is \$120 for six months or \$220 for a year. Wittenborn collects glass the same day as homeowners’ normal trash pickup.

At present, [he’s offering his service](#) in northeast Johnson County, Brookside, and Waldo, as well as Midtown. “Currently we are a one-man operation with high hopes of being a job creator in the near future,” he said. “Our top priority is to keep glass out of our landfills by making glass recycling as convenient and easy as possible.”

Atlas delivers the glass it collects to Ripple Glass — at no charge to them, Damon says. “It’s our way of saying thank you to Ripple for creating jobs and helping us all to take a step towards a more sustainable future,” he said. For more information, visit <http://atlasglasskc.com/> or email Damon at damon@atlasglasskc.com ■

Stroke Warning Signs

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination
- Sudden, severe headache with no known cause.

If you or someone with you has one or more of these signs, don’t delay. Call 9-1-1 immediately. If given within three hours of the start of symptoms, a clot-busting drug can reduce long-term disability for the most common type of stroke. ■

Looking Back: And a Look Forward

by Joe Montanari

Ordinarily, I write about the past, but this time, I want to take a look at the future. When I first moved to the neighborhood in 1972, nobody called it "West Plaza." It was just another sleepy little blue-collar neighborhood with a high percentage of elderly residents. It was quiet, peaceful, and boring, but we liked it because it was close to the Plaza and Westport and had easy access to the interstates. In short, it was a comfortable, convenient place to live.

But West Plaza has evolved a lot since then. It started back in the 70s, when Art and June Dimsdale bought up the old commercial storefronts on 45th Street and turned them into the State Line Antique District, effectively stopping further erosion by turning a blighted area into a successful business district. Since those days, many of our historic older homes have been lovingly restored, and new homes have sprung up in their midst.

The real estate bust of 2008 may have slowed things down, but it did not stop the continued trend toward improvement. Even in this tight mortgage market, real estate values have stabilized and are now on the upswing. In 2012, West Plaza is a vibrant neighborhood with a strong sense of community identity. These days, neighbors say, "I live in the West Plaza," and they say it with pride.

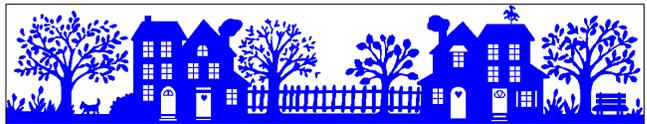
Recent developments suggest even better times are yet to come. It is hard not to notice a number of good things happening right now in and near West Plaza, all of which bode well for the neighborhood's future. On our eastern border, the Plaza Vista buildings are approaching completion at a rapid pace, soon to be the home of the Polsinelli-Shughart law firm and the very posh Hotel Sorella. At Roanoke Parkway and 47th, we see the old buff brick apartment buildings undergoing a complete transformation, with handsome new exterior detail, entirely new interiors, and extensive landscaping of the grounds surrounding them, as well as off-street parking.

Our venerable old Swinney School will soon be remodeled into professional offices for doctors and dentists. This will include landscaping and a historic restoration of the building's interior and exterior. Just beyond our borders to the west, KU Medical Center has received National Cancer

Institute status, leading to a major expansion along the Rainbow Boulevard corridor. Already, we see a lot of new construction activity in the 3900 block and heading south. Just last month, Google Fiber announced that it would soon be offering high speed internet access in West Plaza and other midtown neighborhoods *for the very first time in the country*, and they have opened a temporary headquarters at Westport and State Line.

Beside improving the visual appearance of the neighborhood, each of these projects represents a substantial boost to our West Plaza economy, because, most importantly, they bring good jobs to the immediate area. The combined economic benefit of these payroll-producing entities locating in or near West Plaza cannot be overstated. Never before have this many positive developments occurred at one time.

None of this is accidental, due merely to blind luck. West Plaza's steady march forward has been impelled by a powerful force: the spirit of a unified community of dedicated neighbors determined to make our neighborhood a little better, day by day. Thank you, neighbors. I've always felt that West Plaza is a great place to live, and I know that the best is yet to come. ■



Got Drugs? National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day Saturday, September 29, 2012

~ No Questions Asked ~



10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
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Garden Report: The Effects of the Drought

by Ed O'Donnell

In a past article about our garden (located in the traffic median bounded by Jarboe, Roanoke Parkway, and 46th Street) I mentioned that a "brutal winter has led to a beautiful spring." But unfortunately, this brutal summer is going to lead to a boring autumn. Residents who have either visited or read about the garden know that it is a mix of natives and cultivars, perennials and annuals. Also, every year I try to do something unique. For example, this year was (supposed to be) the year of the Three Sisters (corn, pole beans, and squash all grown together).

It's obvious that the drought has had an effect on all of the above plants. Although I was trying to keep the Three Sisters watered (since I thought the perennials could hold their own), by July 15th I realized that I needed to concentrate my efforts on keeping the Tulip and Gray Man's Beard trees alive. They were both showing signs of stress: dropping leaves and no signs of new growth. The two-to-three times a week watering has helped

the trees. Alas, the corn is crispy, only one of the squash vines is still alive, and all of the beans have died. A lot of the "drought tolerant" natives have gone dormant (be back next year?); the cultivars, like the iris that Joe Padilla donated, and the daisies that Sharon Pendleton planted, are much stressed.

The good news is that the trees will survive (there's new growth and no more lost leaves), at least one of the native liatris is in bloom, and some of the sunflowers are still providing food for goldfinches.

But, as I mentioned earlier, I think this autumn will be boring, since there will be little color from the trees, Asters, Indian Physic, and native grasses. Since I have already started removing dead plant material, the Fall Garden Cleanup (scheduled for Saturday, November 17, 9:00 a.m.) may go fast! ■

Garden Volunteer Reminder

Every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. we meet at the West Plaza Garden to make it look the best it can. 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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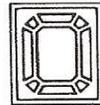
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Newsletter Distribution [] Gardening []

[September-October 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.

September 18 November 20

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.

“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,
Nothing is going to happen, it’s not.”

— Dr. Seuss



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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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