



WEST PLAZA

NEIGHBORHOOD • ASSOCIATION

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

Mark Your Calendar ☒

Annual Volunteer Forum
General Membership Meeting
Immanuel Lutheran Church
1701 Westport Road
Tuesday, March 21, 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Social half-hour begins at 6:30 p.m.

Our March 2023 General Meeting will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church. We will not have a Zoom option, as it is our Volunteer Forum and we want as many people as possible to attend in person and stay for however long you can. Because Greg Madden and volunteers won the Grand Prize for best neighborhood support station along the KC Marathon route, we will serve pizza provided by Johnny's Tavern. In addition, we will have cookies baked by two of our members who have volunteered to provide them for the rest of the year.

At this meeting we will host our Candidate Forum. We have invited all of the folks who have declared their candidacy for the open positions on the City Council. We have received confirmations from Jessica Blublaugh, Cecilia Carter, Johnathan Duncan, Lindsey French, Tiffany Moore, Jill Sasse, Justin Short, Michael Shuckman, and Rhonda Smith. Crispin Rea may also attend. We will have a complete list in our Mail Chimp meeting reminder to members and on our Facebook Discussion Group. ■

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President's View: Hello, West Plaza!

by Hayden Woods

Hello, all! I'm Hayden Woods, and I am the new president of the West Plaza Neighborhood Association. My wife and I moved to West Plaza two and a half years ago, drawn here by the character and walkability of the neighborhood. I joined the board a year later and completed my first full term on the board last year. I got involved because West Plaza needed a technical advisor. As a software engineer, I figured that was a job I would be capable of doing.

If you're curious about what prompted me to initially join the neighborhood association, you're in luck. Sometime during the pandemic I read [this series](#) on StrongTown.org specifically about Kansas City. It explained so much about what I was subconsciously experiencing in KC but could not put into words. It opened my eyes and connected a lot of the dots. I knew I wanted to be part of the solution and help the place I live become better. Joining the board of the neighborhood we had just moved to and getting involved seemed like a great first step.

As your president, I hope to be your advocate for the neighborhood—to help make incremental changes that can change this neighborhood for the better. If you have any ideas for neighborhood improvement, big or small, I encourage you to get involved! The board is a dedicated group that truly loves this neighborhood, and we're always looking for new members.

If you have questions, concerns, or just want to say hi, you can always email me at president@westplaza.org. You'll also be able to find me frequently walking our dog Copper (and newborn!), running, or biking around the neighborhood! ■

FORKS & RAKES by Stephanie Murrell

Spring Pasta Salad Recipe

from [recipetips.com](https://www.recipetips.com)

Ingredients:

10 ounces large shell pasta
1 1/2 cups radishes, sliced
1 cucumber, thinly sliced
1 cup green pepper, diced
1 1/2 cups carrots, peeled and sliced
1/4 cup onion, diced
1 1/2 cups mayonnaise
2/3 cup sugar
2 teaspoon dill weed
2 tablespoon vinegar

Directions:

Cook pasta according to directions. Drain. Combine pasta and vegetables in a large bowl. In a small bowl, combine mayo, sugar, dill weed, and vinegar. Pour over vegetables and stir until combined. Chill for at least 2 hours. ■



311: Hotline to City Services and Information

Contact 311 to report a problem, request a service, or ask a question about a city service.

Call 311 or 816-513-1313

Twitter: @KCMO311

<https://www.kcmo.gov/city-hall/311>

Download the myKCMO App from the App Store or Google Play to request and track city services. Report potholes, illegal dumping, missed trash pickups, and more.

Visit <https://www.kcmo.gov/city-hall/departments/trash> for details on:

- Weekly Trash Collection
- Recycling
- Bulky Item Collection
- Leaf and Brush Drop-off Sites and Collection
- Illegal Dumping
- Waste Tire Drop-Off Program
- Neighborhood Cleanup Assistance Programs

2023 Holiday Schedule and No-Tag Weeks

If a holiday falls during the week, trash and recycling collection takes place on the day following the holiday, and collection for the remaining days of the week also takes place one day later than usual. Friday trash is collected on

Saturday during such weeks. This one-day push is called the holiday schedule.

During winter weather, recycling and trash operations might be suspended. Under the City's stronger snow policy, KCMO suspends collection during big storms to make those drivers available for snow plowing. If this is the case, the holiday schedule goes into effect; check [kcmo.gov/snow](https://www.kcmo.gov/snow).

No-tag ("trash amnesty") weeks happen twice a year and on special occasions. During those weeks, residents can put out up to 12 bags curbside without any additional tags as long as each bag weighs less than 40 pounds. Regular trash rules apply. No hazardous waste, bulky items, or leaf and brush will be collected.

No collection occurs on the following holidays, with a one-day delay all week except as noted:

Martin Luther King Jr. Day: Jan. 16

Presidents Day: Feb. 20

Memorial Day: May 29

Juneteenth: June 19

Independence Day: July 4

Amnesty Week/No-tag pickup will run

Wednesday, July 5 through Saturday, July 9, and Monday July 10. 12 bags will be collected.

Labor Day: Sept. 4

Veterans Day: Nov. 10 – No impact on collection

Thanksgiving Day: Nov. 23 – Thursday collection will take place on Friday

Day after Thanksgiving: Nov. 24 – Friday collection will take place on Saturday, Nov. 25

Christmas Day: Dec. 25

Amnesty Week/No-tag pickup will occur

Tuesday, Dec. 26 through Saturday, Dec. 30. 12 bags will be collected.

New Year's Day: Jan. 1

Bulky Item Pickup By Appointment Only

Online: Use the Online Bulky Scheduler. <https://www.kcmo.gov/city-hall/trash/bulky>

By phone: Call 311 or 816-513-1313

Appointments must be made up to 48 hours prior to the service date. Collections will not be made without an appointment. ■

CityWise

Opened in 1933, the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art features more than 35,000 works encompassing more than 5,000 years of human history.

Membership Minute

by Julie Jennings, Membership Director

“Good teams become great ones when the members trust each other enough to surrender the ME for the WE.” —Phil Jackson

March is Volunteer Forum month. We need you! West Plaza Neighborhood Association has created a large number of activities and events, and we need volunteers to help get 'em done.

Please stop by the general meeting or send a note to wpnageneral@gmail.com with your interests or questions about volunteering for any of our open positions. You could serve on an ongoing committee that helps us get things done in the neighborhood, or you could volunteer for a once-and-done commitment. If you have enjoyed even one of our events, please reach out and volunteer. We have made non-board member jobs available for members to chair or co-chair to help us keep up the level of neighborhood events and activities.

Open Volunteer Positions:

- Art in the Park event volunteers – September
- Block Captain/Watch Chair
- Cleanup volunteers – May and October
- Eggstravaganza event volunteers – April
- General Meeting Refreshments Coordinator
- July Traveling General Meeting Coordinator
- Litter Patrol Coordinator – May and October
- Membership Happy Hour Hosts (Up to 12)
- Music in the Park event volunteers – June
- Newsletter Content Coordinator
- Newsletter Distributors – up to six times/year
- Pop Up Events Chair – Caroling, neighborhood-involved city events (e.g., Marathon)
- Sign & Banners Distributor – Post and collect general meeting and event signage at scheduled times
- Trunk or Treat Event Coordinator and runners

Chair Positions Filled:

- Cleanup Chair – Erica Heath
- Music in the Park Co-Chair – Stephanie Murrell
- Newsletter Distribution Chair – Kyle Jensen
- Yard Sales Chair – Terrie Simons

Our committees need members to do legwork and attend community and city meetings: PIAC, Codes/Zoning, Preservation & Development, Short Term Rental, and West Plaza Watch. ■

Cry Your Heart Out

by Martha Childers

When I was a child, crying was frowned upon. While I was in high school, one of my male classmates cried when someone hit his car by accident. Waves of shock wafted throughout the class as some people talked in hushed tones about his reaction. Attitudes like this may be changing. I hope they are.

Crying is important to lighten our hearts after a loss or disappointment. Chemicals that make us feel bad come out through the tears. Tears have different consistencies. Some are wet and running, some are bitter. Some burn as they run down our face. Usually, we feel so much better after a good cry.

Sometimes it's hard to start crying. Being in a safe place alone or with supportive loved ones is essential for a good cry. Listening to sad music or watching a sad movie can help prime the pump. Pets can be remarkably empathetic. My late cat Jewel was like that. She would sit by me as I sobbed, licking the tears from my face. When a friend of mine was having a hard time at work, he went to the bathroom to cry. That's a place that is almost always available for privacy.

So, please, when you need to, cry your heart out. You'll feel better afterwards.

For more tips on living, visit: <http://www.childerscounselingservice.com/> ■

RAFFLE!

Executive Membership to Chiefs Fit Train Like The Pros!

Purchase tickets at our website, westplaza.org, or at any West Plaza meeting or event before June 10.

\$10 per ticket OR
3 tickets for \$25 OR
10 tickets for \$50 OR
20 tickets for \$100

We will draw the winner at Music in the Park on June 10, 2023.



An Open Letter to the WPNA Board of Directors

by Joe Montanari, Past President, WPNA

My late wife and I moved to West Plaza in 1972, before the neighborhood had its own identity. Folks would say, "I live in Kansas City, on Genessee Street," but they had no concept of West Plaza as a separate community within the context of the larger city. Today, neighbors proudly say "I live in West Plaza." When we arrived here 50 years ago, West Plaza was sleepy and rundown, populated mostly by elderly retirees. Over 70 percent of the homes were rentals, most of them owned by absentee landlords, and many in poor condition. Today, we see most of the older homes rehabbed, with new homes springing up in their midst. Property values are on the rise. This phenomenon did not occur by accident but resulted from years of concerted effort by West Plaza residents.

Over the years, West Plaza, led by its neighborhood association, has met numerous challenges, including negligent absentee landlords, drug houses, crime, liquor licenses, and ill-conceived commercial development. We have overcome these challenges by presenting a strong, unified front. Although the WPNA has no official authority to write or enforce City ordinances, City officials do look to us for advice. They recognize that we are well-organized, and that our opinion matters because we vote.

Humans are social creatures. The survival of a healthy community depends on the cooperation and companionship of others. Our neighborhood is made of much more than a collection of houses; most importantly, it is a community of neighbors who live in those houses, a group of people cooperating toward common goals. The goal of our West Plaza Neighborhood Association is "to improve the quality of life in the West Plaza Neighborhood," and our motto is, "We look out for each other." Any action taken by the Association should be predicated upon these principles. We must always ask, "What is the best thing for the most people?"

Right now, our neighborhood is faced with a problem of real concern: the proliferation of short term rentals, most of them owned and operated by out-of-town corporations. Houses no longer occupied by permanent or even semi-permanent residents now serve overnight guests, strangers

who have no concern for the neighborhood whatever, who are merely seeking a place to party or to spend the night. In most cases, there is no on-site manager watching over their "guests" to monitor the activities that take place in these houses. As you may imagine, this is a formula for disaster. The potential for criminal activity with unsupervised strangers coming and going is significant.

A recent report by the City Auditor states that there are approximately 4,175 short term rental units in Kansas City, with only about 7% of them registered. There are at least 60 STRs already operating in West Plaza, with fewer than 6% registered, and there is currently no limit to how many more there may be. Although the City Council has passed a few basic ordinances to regulate short term rentals, the City has neither the money nor the staff to ensure compliance with the ordinances. In a report of findings published on January 27, 2023, the Kansas City Neighborhood Advisory Council (KCNAC) stated, "The depopulation associated with this trend results in fewer registered voters, lower census counts, reduced school enrollment, and shrinks revenues needed for local infrastructure and basic services."

On a more personal level, each house full of strangers is that many fewer real neighbors who care about you and your family, who can watch your house or feed your dog when you are away, who can call the police when they see something fishy going on, who can help you in an emergency, or who may be not only your neighbor but your friend. In the long run, isn't this what a neighborhood is all about?

By replacing real neighbors with transient visitors, short term rentals pose a serious threat to the integrity of the wonderful neighborhood our neighbors worked so hard to build. Until the City has the means to limit and regulate short term rentals, I suggest that they ban them altogether. Other cities have done this. I urge the West Plaza Neighborhood Association to take a strong stand on this issue. Ask yourselves, "What is the best thing for the most people?" ■

Help Distribute the Newsletter

Contact Kyle Jensen at 816-831-1300 or Methodchiropractic.com to sign up, get some exercise, and help your neighbors stay in touch!

2023 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Immanuel Lutheran Church
1701 Westport Road

Third Tuesday of odd-numbered months:
March 21 ~ May 16 ~ July 18 ~ September 19 ~
November 21 ~ January 16, 2024

BOARD MEETINGS

The first Thursday of each month, 7-8 p.m.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Monday following board meetings: April - June -
August - October - December

EVENTS

EggStravaganza: Saturday, April 8, 3-5 p.m.,
Westwood Park

Spring Litter Patrol: Friday, May 26

Spring Cleanup: Saturday, May 27, 8 a.m.- noon
or when dumpsters are full, Westwood Park

Yard Sales: TBD in June

West Plaza's Music in the Park: Saturday, June
10, Westwood Park

West Plaza's Art in the Park: Saturday,
September 23, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Westwood Park

Fall Litter Patrol: Friday, October 27

Fall Cleanup: Saturday, October 28, 8 a.m.-
noon or when dumpsters are full, Westwood
Park

Trunk or Treat: Sunday, October 29, 3-5 p.m.
Location TBD



Conveniently located on the Country Club Plaza

Martha Childers

Licensed Professional Counselor

www.ChildersCounselingService.com
Martha@ChildersCounselingService.com
816-892-0803

Stay in Touch with WPNA

Website: www.westplaza.org



Email: wpnageneral@gmail.com



Twitter: @WestPlazaKC



Instagram: west_plaza_kcmo



YouTube: WPNA KCMO



Facebook:

@West Plaza Neighborhood
Association-Discussion Group
@West Plaza Watch
@West Plaza Moms & Dads
@West Plaza Buy/Sell/Trade

U.S. Mail: P. O. Box 32826
Kansas City, MO 64171-7826

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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 Tenenbaum 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 (WPNA members only):

Business card	\$35
Quarter page	\$50



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www.perryplazadental.com

Big Thanks to Our

Volunteers of the Year

~ Kyle Jensen and Addison Heiken ~

at Method Chiropractic

who did a stellar job of taking on the newsletter distribution
in 2022 and are continuing their service in 2023!

We appreciate you both!

New and Renewed Business Members, March 2023

Please support the businesses that support our neighborhood.

For a complete listing of business members, visit westplaza.org

Andy's Frozen Custard

1200 Westport Road
andy@eatandys.com

Autobahn Motors Inc.

1111 Westport Road
816-531-3399
www.autobahn-usa.com

**Better Homes & Gardens
Real Estate**

913-488-3770
state@kansascityhomes.com

Cafe Corazon

1721 Westport Road
816-205-8010
www.cafecorazonkc.com

Childers Counseling Service

330 West 47th Street, Ste. 217
816-892-0803
Childerscounselingservice.com

Christopher Filley Antiques

1721 West 45th Street
816-668-9974
christopherfilleyantiques@gmail.com

Cliff House Condominiums

4506 Holly
816-926-9949
terry@hunterresidential.com

Computer Whisperer

816-865-6870
Markcarr1@gmail.com

Donutology

1009 Westport Road
816-298-5222
tera@donutology.com

Final Draft Secretarial Service

816-931-2276
Finaldraftsecretarialservice.com

Great Master LLC

4420 Madison Avenue, Ste. 104
913-286-4812
Ray.Adams@algkc.com

Hair Style

4500 Bell Street
816-531-4545
Brianb1b2@aol.com

Hybrid Holdings, LLC

913-271-4391
hybridholdingsllc@gmail.com

Joseph Pinter Realtor

435 Nichols Road
816-686-7530
josephpinterrealtor@gmail.com

Kyle Myrick Massage

Kylemyrick.mt@gmail.com

**Method Chiropractic + Physical
Medicine**

917 West 43 St., Ste A
816-831-1300
kylecolbyjensen@gmail.com

Mike Kelly's Westsider

1515 Westport Road
816-931-9417
LMK3KC@yahoo.com

New Beginning Investments

913-207-5061
Newbeginninginvestmentskc@gmail.com

Quality Estate Sales

816-215-0726
kathe@estatesalekc.com

The Fat Plant Society, LLC

816-933-9509
www.thefatplantsociety.com

Two Sugars

1412 Westport Road
816-419-5442
twosugarskc@gmail.com

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

Membership runs annually from January 1 to December 31

Household (\$15): New [] OR Renewal []

Member Name/s: _____

Kids: _____

Pets: _____

Address: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email/s: _____

Business (\$25): New [] OR Renewal []

Business Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

West Plaza Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

_____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

Email/s: _____

Website: _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: Dues _____ + Donation _____ = \$ _____

- WPNA is a 501c3 organization. Donations over and above membership dues are tax deductible.
- Bi-monthly newsletters are emailed to members via Mail Chimp. In addition, notifications are sent periodically to announce neighborhood meetings and events.
- We will not share your contact information with any other individual or entity. Check here if you DO NOT wish to receive notifications via email. ☐ March-April 2023

Current WPNA Membership Numbers

Business: Current 2023: 30 Pending Renewal 2022: 28 2021 and Before: 76
Household: Current 2023: 120 members in 73 households Pending Renewal 2022 & Before: 458

Kansas City Neighborhood Advisory Council Meeting Notes

by Anne Johnston

On January 19, 2023, the Kansas City Neighborhood Advisory Council (KCNAC) held its monthly general meeting at the Southeast Community Center. KCNAC was formed in 2003 to advise governing bodies "in the development and implementation of public policy impacting the quality of life for Kansas City residents." Each district is represented by a volunteer director. Until redistricting takes effect this August, West Plaza is in the Fourth District and our KCNAC director is Kate Barsotti.

City Auditor Douglas Jones spoke about Part II of his office's November-December 2022 audit related to short-term rentals. Part I was a topic at KCNAC's December 2022 general meeting. The full text of each may be accessed [here](#) and

[here](#). Both audits informed the City's decision to impose license fees on short-term rentals which will be put to a vote on April 4, 2023. The ballot language may be found [here](#).

Tiffany Moore, co-director of KCNAC, presented main ideas from the advisory council's researched and recommended proposals regarding the governance of short-term rentals. The council's 1/27/23 recommendations to Mayor Lucas, City Manager Platt, and the City Council may be found [here](#).

The council has an emailed newsletter and a Facebook page to follow their activities. Direct questions and comments for KCNAC to kcmonac@gmail.com. ■