



WEST PLAZA

NEIGHBORHOOD • ASSOCIATION

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

Mark Your Calendar ☒

West Plaza Neighborhood Meeting

A bi-monthly meeting for
West Plaza residents and businesses

Tuesday, September 16, 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Social half-hour begins at 6:30 p.m.

Vintner Wine Bar & Tasting Room
4711 Rainbow Blvd, Westwood, KS 66205
or via Zoom @ <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82850878576>

~ Log on Early to Check Connection ~

We are grateful to owner Tony Marin for graciously hosting us. Vintner, one of our newest WPNA business members, offers wine by the glass, a full bar, beer, and non-alcoholic options. This month's meeting will focus on supporting small, local businesses and will also double as a membership happy hour—a chance to mingle with neighbors, welcome new members, and build connections in a relaxed setting.

We have only two more general meetings in 2025, so don't miss this opportunity to stay connected and engaged with the neighborhood.

As always, light refreshments will be provided, and we will close with a raffle. Bring a neighbor with you who hasn't joined WPNA yet and get an extra ticket for the drawing! ■

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2025 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

West Plaza Neighborhood Meetings
Immanuel Lutheran Church
1701 Westport Road

Also via Zoom

Third Tuesday of odd-numbered months:
~ September 16 ~ November 18 ~

BOARD MEETINGS

First Tuesday of each month
~ September 2 ~ ~ October 7 ~
~ November 4 ~ December 2 ~

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Monday following board meetings of even-numbered months

EVENTS

September 20: 12th Annual Art in the Park,
Westwood Park, 11 am-4 pm (Saturday)

October 24: Litter Patrol, 5-6 pm (Friday)

October 25: Fall Cleanup, 8 am-12 pm
(Saturday)

October 31: Trick or Treat Map (Friday)

November 29: Holiday Open House, 47th
Street Corridor (Saturday)

The full version of the newsletter is available in newsletter parking boxes on the streets and in some of our WPNA business members' establishments. A full list of locations can be found on the website at westplaza.org. Scan this QR code or visit westplaza.org to read the full WPNA newsletter online.



President's View

by Ken Williams

I hope everybody has had a great summer and 2025 so far. Football season is here, and I'm excited for the Chiefs and for college football. The WPNA has been busy this year working on a number of important issues.

One of my top priorities has been to identify and address problem properties in West Plaza. Specifically, we are looking for properties that are unoccupied and unmaintained, and may have been broken into and have unauthorized occupants or trespassers. To date, we have identified more than 15 of these properties in West Plaza, and we are working with the city and KCPD to resolve concerns.

Another priority is the continued issues with property crime in West Plaza. In August, we observed an increase in vehicle break-ins and vehicle thefts. I have resumed informal neighborhood crime patrols, and we are continuing to work with KCPD to reduce crime in the neighborhood. If you are a victim, please contact KCPD to make a report, and post in the West Plaza Watch Facebook group so your neighbors will be aware. Also, if you see a property crime in progress, such as a vehicle break-in, vehicle theft, or business or residential burglary, please stay inside and stay safe, and call 911. Do not attempt to confront criminals, as they are often armed.

Finally, we are monitoring Westwood Park to ensure that it remains a safe, clean, and fun environment for people of all ages to enjoy. We have had a few isolated issues there, such as somebody living in one corner of the park, and a couple of large gatherings that involved multiple serious violations of park rules. For more information about the parks, including park rules, visit kcparks.org. Please contact me if you have any concerns, comments, or questions about the park. Also feel free to reach out to the city Parks and Recreation department. If you see any dangerous or illegal activities in the park, contact 911 or the KCPD non-emergency number as appropriate, or contact me directly.

I hope everybody has a safe and fun finish to the summer, and we can all look forward to a beautiful fall, football, and basketball season – and then a holiday season with some time off from work so we can make more great memories with our families, friends, and neighbors. ■

Gratitude vs. Depression

by Martha Childers, EdSpec, LPC, LCPC

One of the greatest remedies for depression is gratitude. Usually when we are depressed, we're looking inwards. We may be stuck in a pity pot, feeling sorry for ourselves. Looking outward at the many things in our lives that are amazing and wonderful can be helpful. Then actually saying this to others or yourself through journaling brings these thoughts to life.

Although gratitude may not be the only remedy for depression, it can help.

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

Fall Clean-Up

Saturday, October 25 — 8 a.m.–Noon

Join us for this year's neighborhood clean-up at Westwood Park. Dumpsters will be on Wyoming between 48th & 47th. Traffic will be northbound only.

Accepted: Leaf/brush in paper bags, tied bundles of sticks, household waste, metal scrap, and reusable household donations.

Membership Dues: \$15/household helps cover dumpster rentals (cash/check/Venmo/PayPal).

We need Volunteers! Contact Stephanie Murrell at info@westplaza.org.

More details to come via email and on West Plaza's Facebook page.

Twelfth Annual Art in the Park! Saturday, September 20, 11-4 Westwood Park

Many local artists will be selling their creations at the 12th annual AITP, including pottery, knitted items, jewelry, paintings, prints, mugs, ink and marker drawings, and watercolor drawings. Food items will also be offered for sale, including honey, Italian ices, coffee, gluten-free vegan cookies and muffins, and more. There might be food trucks, too.

Bring your family and friends...bring a blanket or chairs. Spend the afternoon browsing the booths and chatting with your neighbors.

We'll see you there! ■

FORKS & RAKES by Stephanie Murrell

Creamy Coconut Chicken Curry

A flavorful one-pot curry made with tender chicken, coconut milk, tomatoes, and curry spices. Healthier than takeout and perfect for busy weeknights.

Yields: 6

Total Time: 30 minutes

Ingredients:

- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 2 lbs boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cut into bite-sized pieces
- ½ tsp salt (or to taste)
- ½ tsp pepper (or to taste)
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 tbsp curry powder
- 1 cup low-sodium chicken broth
- 1 can (14 oz) coconut milk
- 1 can (14.5 oz) diced tomatoes
- 2 tbsp tomato paste
- 2 tbsp sugar
- 2 tbsp chopped parsley

Instructions:

Cook Chicken: Heat oil in a large skillet or Dutch oven. Add chicken, season with salt and pepper, and cook for about 5 minutes until no longer pink.

Add Flavor: Stir in onion, garlic, and curry powder. Cook 2 minutes.

Simmer: Add broth, coconut milk, tomatoes, tomato paste, and sugar. Bring to a boil, cover, reduce heat, and simmer for 15–20 minutes.

Serve: Serve over your favorite rice. ■



The Volunteer You Don't Want: Why you should remove self-seeded trees near foundations and power lines

Volunteer trees—those unexpected sprouts—may seem harmless, but they can cause serious problems if left alone.

Near Foundations:

- Root damage can shift your foundation, causing cracks.
- Moisture loss from roots dries out soil, leading to settling and more cracks.
- Pipe intrusion happens when roots invade sewer lines, causing blockages and costly repairs.

Near Power Lines:

- Fire/electrocution risk from trees touching or growing near lines
- Power outages caused by falling branches during storms
- Legal liability if your tree causes damage or service disruption

What to Do:

- Remove young volunteer trees early.
- Avoid planting large trees near homes or power lines.
- Use root barriers and trim regularly.
- Call professionals for anything near power lines — never DIY.

Bottom line:

Volunteer trees can be a hidden threat. Deal with them early to protect your home, safety, and wallet. ■



CityWise

Opening this October

West Plaza Bodega!

Your new corner hangout for coffee,
pastries, and grab-n-go eats!

1702 W. 45th Street

NW corner of Genessee and 45th Street

Membership Minute

by Julie Jennings, Membership Director

Hello Neighbors & Friends -

The 12th Annual Art in the Park is September 20, 2025 in Westwood Park. The deadline to be a vendor is September 12, 2025. Contact me at 816-215-1388 or email wpnageneral@gmail.com for more details.

Our bi-monthly meeting is on the move for September. See location details on the front page.

We are continuing our Bring a Neighbor incentive going! If you introduce yourself to a neighbor and they haven't joined WPNA yet, bring them to the meeting or an upcoming event. (You can also bring a neighbor you already know.) Not only will they get membership swag and be in the loop, but you will get an extra raffle ticket for the drawings at the end of the meeting. I love it when we have the opportunity to meet our neighbors.

I am calling for Block Parties captains. I did not get responses to my efforts to contact those who had checked their interest on the membership forms...so if you like pot luck party planning, please sign up for your block. The board will support your effort with information and visitors. Join at westplaza.org or renew and check block parties, and I will get your info to the volunteer who takes the lead. Not only are block parties fun, an additional benefit is that knowing and watching out for your neighbors can be the best property crime prevention.

A big THANK YOU to Cheryl Tulipana and Parker Jennings for their assistance in swapping out the West Plaza banners.

I'm still looking for a helper to select and organize our Membership Happy Hours this year! I've got a list of businesses...I need the extra help to make these events happen.

More hands and minds help get the work of the neighborhood done. We now have a board of eight and can always use some one-and-done assistance. If you are interested, feel free to give me a call (816-215-1388) or email me at wpna-general@gmail.com, president@westplaza.org, or info@westplaza.org or reach out to any current board member with questions. ■

Help Keep West Plaza Safe

See Something, Say Something: If you observe suspicious activity, don't hesitate to report it to the KCMO Police:

911 Emergencies

816-234-5111 Non-emergency Number

816-474-8477 Anonymous Tip Line

You can also call City Services at 311.

Looking for an easy way to help WPNA?

You can help people get to our meetings.

We have meeting reminder signs you can put in your yard the Friday before the Tuesday General Meeting (third Tuesday of odd-numbered months) and then bring it back inside after the meeting.

Next meeting: September 16, 2025

To claim your sign, call Julie Jennings, 816-215-1388 or email wpnageneral@gmail.com

Newsletter edited and formatted by:

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Dissertation Formatting is Our Specialty

West Plaza Neighborhood Association Newsletter

Edited by Julie A. Tenenbaum

Phone: 816-931-2276 (landline)

Email: jatkc@aol.com

Submit suggestions for newsletter articles to Julie Tenenbaum at the email address above. 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

Leaves Are Falling, Community Is Calling: Get Ready for a West Plaza Autumn

by Len Jurden, Board Member

Are you ready for the crisp, cool air and vibrant colors of autumn in West Plaza?

Well, GET READY! The air will (hopefully) start to get that crisp, cool feel, with the leaves hinting at a spectacular show, and everyone will start to focus on all the best parts of fall. As we approach September and October, it's the perfect time to embrace the season and reconnect with our amazing community. Rally your neighbors, and dive into these fun events that highlight local shopping and community vibes!

Fall in Kansas City is a wonderful time, and we will soon be right in the heart of it. The annual Plaza Art Fair is just around the corner, bringing a fantastic opportunity to stroll through a nationally recognized art event right in our backyard. It's a great way to meet up with neighbors, discover some incredible art, and grab a bite to eat from the local restaurants that make our area so special.

But the fun doesn't stop there. As the days get shorter, there are countless ways to enjoy the season together. Why not grab a warm beverage from a local coffee shop on a Saturday morning and take a walk through Westwood Park to enjoy the changing colors? Or, plan a group trip with some neighbors to a nearby pumpkin patch for a classic fall outing. We also have an incredible array of local shops, from unique boutiques to fantastic eateries, that could use our support as we head into the holiday season. Spending our dollars right here in West Plaza not only keeps our neighborhood vibrant but also gives us a chance to get to know the friendly faces behind these businesses.

This time of year is a wonderful reminder of the strong community we have here. Let's make a point to say hello to a neighbor on our morning walks, organize a block-wide Halloween decoration contest, or simply share a smile with someone new. Fall is about warmth and connection, and there's no better place to find that than right here at home in West Plaza. Here's to a beautiful autumn filled with good company and local adventures! ■

Dog Days of Summer

by Jacob Gutierrez and Kevin Garner
Board Members

We are officially in the dog days of summer. The corn is sweating, for crying out loud.

Who decided to name the slow, hot last days of summer after something so cuddly and delightful? Dogs hate this heat. They want to be parked on top of the AC vent or letting their ears blow in the breeze of a percolating fan.

Our house has recently entered its dog days as well. We adopted a little miniature poodle mix back at the end of June. Dolly is ten pounds of fun. She loves a good squeaky toy and can't wait for us to get home to spend time with her at the end of the work day. We got really lucky.

When we initially discussed adopting a dog, I was a bit hesitant about adopting from a shelter. I wanted a small dog, and it seemed close to impossible to find one in a sea of larger (equally friendly) canines. However, persistence paid off, and we were able to save our sweet pup from a much worse fate.

KC Pet Project is usually and currently full of animals ready to be adopted to loving homes. They aren't the only shelter in the area, and we encourage you to look around. Finding a dog or cat at an animal shelter that fits your family is quite possible, and you might just convince someone else to bring a furry friend home, too. ■

Join WPNA or Renew Your Membership

As our membership year is January through December, we offer prorated renewal rates:

Join now through September:
\$25 for the rest of year and next year

Join October through November:
\$20 for the rest of year & next year

Join in December:
\$15 for next year

To join or renew, visit westplaza.org
and fill out an updated or new application.
The link to pay is at the end of the application.

Who You Gonna Call? For Help in KC, Check Out These Numbers.

Service	Phone Number/ Contact Info	Info	When to Call/Contact Examples
911	911	<p>EMERGENCIES</p> <p>Use to report all urgent emergencies, crimes in progress, and suspicious activity.</p> <p>If you dial 911 by mistake, or if a child in your home dials 911 when no emergency exists, do not hang up – that could make officials think that an emergency exists, and possibly send responders to your location. Instead, simply explain to the call-taker what happened.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A life-threatening event of any kind • Fire • Emergency medical care needed (heart attack, stroke, etc.) • A crime is in progress • A serious crime just occurred (assault, robbery, etc.) • Car accident requiring an ambulance • You see a drunk driver on the road <p>If police services are needed to check on a situation that is occurring, or if a crime is occurring or has occurred, don't hesitate or debate - call 911.</p>
KCMO Non-Emergency	816-234-5111	<p>NON-EMERGENCIES</p> <p>Use to report non-emergency situations and request police assistance if immediate action is not required. However, if in doubt - call 911.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To report a non-violent crime • To report a crime if you are no longer in immediate danger (A break-in occurred while you were out of town) • If you want to report something that can wait a few minutes
311 (Cities Action Center)	311	<p>CITY SERVICES</p> <p>311 is the Cities Action Center. It is residents' connection for City services and information. Contact 311 to report a problem, request a service, or ask a question about a city service. This number is answered at City Hall for City Services and is NOT an alternative to calling 911. Website: https://www.kcmo.gov/city-hall/311</p>	<p>To report an issue with, or ask about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property Maintenance • Trash • Streetlights • Trees/brush • Street Maintenance/potholes • Traffic Signs and Signals • Abandoned or illegally parked vehicles • Animal neglect or finding a stray/roaming animal
Community Interaction Officer (CIO)	<p>West Plaza CIO's: Benjamin Ryan 816.898.0514 benjamin.ryan@kcpd.org</p> <p>Trevor Singer 816.898.0514 Trevor.Singer@kcpd.org</p>	<p>SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Report suspicious activity. Also can email CIO's if you have video of a crime. *Posts to the West Plaza Watch Facebook group are forwarded to the West Plaza CIO's for analysis/trending.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send an attachment in an email if you have video of a crime occurring, along with the date/time and location. • Report suspicious activity if you are unsure if a crime was committed and emergency services are not needed.

Sources:

<https://nextdoor.com/agency-post/mo/kansas-city-police-department/non-emergency-phone-numbers-61301442/>
<https://www.911.gov>; <https://nextdoor.com/crime-and-safety/>; <https://kcmo.gov>



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West Plaza Home of the Month

The Home of the Month program is going great. March, April, May, and June Home of the Month winners are displayed on our website, westplaza.org, under the Home of the Month tab.

Let us know if you would like to nominate a house that fits the themes listed below.

September – Fall Fresh
October – Best Dressed for Halloween
November – Ready for Winter
December – Home for the Holidays

West Plaza Home of the Month
is sponsored by
Veronica Jaster & Zachary Kelly
of ReeceNichols Plaza Office



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



Instagram: [west_plaza_kcmo](https://www.instagram.com/west_plaza_kcmo)



YouTube: WPNA KCMO



Facebook:
[@West Plaza Neighborhood
Association-Discussion Group](https://www.facebook.com/WestPlazaNeighborhoodAssociationDiscussionGroup)
[@West Plaza Watch](https://www.facebook.com/WestPlazaWatch)
[@West Plaza Buy/Sell/Trade](https://www.facebook.com/WestPlazaBuySellTrade)

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

Join Your Neighbors in the WPNA!

Join the WPNA online via our website, www.westplaza.org, or if you would like to mail in a check, fill out this form and mail it with payment to P O Box 32826, KCMO 64171-7826. Membership runs January through December each year and is prorated after July.

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 _____ = \$ _____	

Volunteer Area(s) of Interest (use numbered list below):

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Block Parties | 8. Neighborhood Cleanup |
| 2. Codes & Zoning | 9. Neighborhood Improvement Projects |
| 3. Kids Club – Moms & Dads Club | 10. Neighborhood Watch |
| 4. Meeting Refreshments | 11. Newsletter Distribution |
| 5. Membership Activities – Events – Happy Hours | 12. Pet Group |
| 6. Membership Initiatives – Survey | 13. Senior Outreach |
| | 14. Yard Sales |

- WPNA is a 501c3 organization. Donations over and above membership dues are tax deductible.
via email.

September-October 2025

New/Renewed Business Members 2025

Support the businesses that support our neighborhood! A complete listing of business members is at westplaza.org

Bay Boy Specialty Sandwiches
4706 Holly St.
Kansas City MO 64112
913-725-8958
<https://bayboykc.com/>

Kansas City Chiropractic
4510 Belleview, 101
Kansas City MO 64111
816-753-4600
www.kansascitychiropractic.com

The Bar West Plaza
1121 West 47 Street
Kansas City MO 64112
816-216-6485
thebarskc.com

Two Sugars
1412 Westport Road
Kansas City MO 64111
816-419-5442
twosugarskc@gmail.com

Unique Cleaning Services, LLC
816-648-5081
<https://ucleaningservices.com>

Urban Prairie Architectural Collaborative, PC
1153 SW Blvd, Ste 201
Kansas City KS 66103
816-304-7416
urbanprairiekc.com