



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, January 20, 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Social half-hour begins at 6:30 p.m.

The Pressed Penny
1512 Westport Road, KC MO 64111
or via Zoom @ <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82850878576>

~ Log on Early to Check Connection ~

We are trying out traveling meeting locations this year. The January 20 meeting will be held at The Pressed Penny from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. They will provide appetizers for our refreshments and also offer a 20% discount for members who wish to purchase drinks or stay for dinner.

A lot will happen at this meeting: board elections, by-laws review and updates, and our annual Volunteer Forum. A brief announcement will be made at 7 p.m. to introduce the board nominees, and packets will be passed out at check-in for voting and volunteer sign-up. The rest of the meeting will be mingle style for questions, answers, and sign-ups, as well as an opportunity to renew your membership for 2026.

The raffle prize at the end of the meeting will be a gift card for The Pressed Penny. We hope to see you there! ■

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2026 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

West Plaza Neighborhood Meetings

Locations Will Vary
Please visit our website, westplaza.org, for
the most recent information

Also via Zoom

Third Tuesday of odd-numbered months:
January 20 ~ March 17 ~ May 19 ~ July 21
September 15 ~ November 17

BOARD MEETINGS

First Tuesday of each month
January 6 ~ February 3 ~ March 3 ~ April 7
May 5 ~ June 2 ~ July 7 ~ August 4
September 1 ~ October 6
November 3 ~ December 1

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Monday following board meetings of even-numbered months

EVENTS

January 20: Board Member Election & Volunteer Forum (Tuesday)
February: Volunteer Thank-You Coffee (Date & Location TBD-Saturday)
April: Eggstravaganza, Westwood Park, 3-5 pm (Date TBD-Saturday)
May 22: Litter Patrol, 6-7 pm (Friday)
May 23: Spring Cleanup, Westwood Park, 8 am-12 pm (Saturday)
June or July (Date TBD): West Plaza Yard Sales (Saturday)
September: Art in the Park, Westwood Park, 11 am-4 pm (Date TBD-Saturday)
October 23: Litter Patrol, 5-6 pm (Friday)
October 24: Fall Cleanup, Westwood Park, 8 am-12 pm (Saturday)
November 28: Holiday Open House, (Saturday)

President's View: Protecting Our Neighborhood Animals

by Ken Williams

As we settle into the deep freeze of a Kansas City winter, it's crucial to remember that the bitterly cold temperatures pose a severe risk to our four-legged neighbors. Whether they are beloved indoor pets who slipped out or community cats navigating the elements, the drop in temperature requires us all to be vigilant. A quick check under your car hood before starting the engine or offering a warm shelter can save a life, but sometimes more help is needed. Fortunately, our city has a robust network of resources ready to assist.

For general concerns or urgent issues, **KCMO Animal Services** remains our primary line of defense for animal welfare and public safety. Additionally, we know that winter heating bills can tighten budgets, making pet care difficult. If you or a neighbor are struggling to afford supplies, **Pet Help Finder** is an excellent tool for locating financially friendly pet resources. For those looking to network or find placement for strays, the **KC and Surrounding Area Cats Needing Homes or Help** Facebook group is a valuable community hub for connecting animals with the help they need.

We are especially excited to highlight two **new** resources that are making a massive difference in the Kansas City area this season. First is **Mad Cat Circle**, a nonprofit organization dedicated to humane population stabilization. They focus on Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) to ensure that community cats—mad or not—live safer, healthier lives. By building trust within neighborhoods, they are not just managing populations but actively improving the welfare of our outdoor feline friends.

Another groundbreaking addition to our local rescue network is **Sky Fetch K9 Rescue**. This new group brings high-tech solutions to lost pet recovery by combining thermal drone technology with a personal passion for dogs. If a pet goes missing in the freezing cold, their thermal imaging can be a lifesaver. Best of all, Sky Fetch is a free service, powered entirely by generous donors who believe that the dogs they rescue often end up rescuing us in return.

Let's keep our eyes open and our hearts warm this winter. By utilizing these resources, we can

Finding Meaning in the Season through Our Holiday Traditions

by Kevin Garner
Board Member

Holiday traditions—whether grand or modest—help anchor us in a season that can pass in a blur. They offer moments of connection and comfort, reminding us of who we are and what we value as individuals and as a neighborhood.

Traditions don't need to be elaborate to be meaningful. Sometimes the smallest, simplest rituals become the ones we carry closest to our hearts. For Jacob and me, that tradition is cutting down our own Christmas tree each year. The crisp air, the search for the perfect tree, and the satisfaction of bringing it home mark the true beginning of the season for us. It's a yearly reminder to slow down, be present, and appreciate both the moment and each other.

As we gather for the holidays, may each of us find or create a tradition—new or old—that brings joy, reflection, and connection. These moments are what make the season memorable and knit our neighborhood closer together. ■

ensure that every animal in our neighborhood stays safe until the spring thaw.

Resource Links:

- **KCMO Animal Services:** kcmo.gov/city-hall/departments/neighborhood-services/animal-services
- **Financially Friendly Pet Resources:** pethelpfinder.org
- **KC and Surrounding Area Cats:** facebook.com/groups/4166850333398756
- **Mad Cat Circle:** facebook.com/madcatcircle
- **Sky Fetch K9 Rescue:** facebook.com/profile.php?id=61579081307919 ■



FORKS & RAKES by Stephanie Murrell

Almond Ricotta Cake

A traditional Italian dessert, perfect with espresso, tea, or coffee.

Servings: 12

Prep Time: 12 min

Cook Time: 50 min

Equipment: 9-inch springform pan



Ingredients:

Cake:

1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups all-purpose flour

$\frac{3}{4}$ tsp baking powder

$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp salt

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, softened

1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups sugar

15 oz whole milk ricotta cheese

2 large eggs

1 tsp almond extract

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup almonds, finely chopped

Topping:

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup sliced almonds

1 tbsp powdered sugar

For greasing pan:

1 tbsp butter, softened

1 tbsp powdered sugar

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350°F and place rack in the middle. Grease a 9-inch springform pan with 1 tbsp butter, then sprinkle with 1 tbsp powdered sugar, shaking out excess.

In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, and salt. Set aside.

In a large bowl, use a hand or stand mixer to cream the butter, sugar, and ricotta until light and fluffy (about 5 minutes).

Beat in eggs and almond extract for another minute.

Gradually mix in the flour mixture until just combined. Fold in the finely chopped almonds.

Pour batter into the prepared pan. Bake 45–55 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool in pan 10 minutes before releasing the springform. Transfer cake to a wire rack to cool completely.

Sprinkle sliced almonds on top of the cooled cake. Dust lightly with powdered sugar using a fine-mesh sieve. ■

Quick Winter Driving & Home Safety Tips

Improve Traction: If your rear-wheel-drive vehicle struggles on icy hills or fishtails around curves, add a few bags of water softener salt to the trunk to increase rear weight and traction. (Not needed for front-wheel drive, though keeping emergency salt on hand is helpful.)

Quiet Your Wipers: Clean wiper blades with soap and water, then spray the moving parts with silicone lubricant to keep them running smoothly and quietly. Reapply throughout the winter.

See Better While Driving: Wipe wiper blades with a rag soaked in glass cleaner to remove grime and improve visibility during winter storms.

Emergency Ice Fix: No scraper? A quick salt-water mix can melt thin windshield ice so you can clear it with your wipers—just use this method sparingly since salt is tough on your car.

Smart Snow Blowing: Start in the center of your driveway and blow snow toward one side, then alternate directions. This reduces chute adjustments and often eliminates a second pass.

Carbon Monoxide Safety: With furnaces, stoves, and fireplaces running overtime, winter is prime season for carbon monoxide buildup. Make sure you have a working UL-listed CO detector in your home.

Easy Salt Spreading: Make a simple sidewalk deicer shaker by poking holes in the lid of a large plastic coffee container. Fill with salt, sand, or cat litter and shake for even coverage. ■



CityWise

Kansas City was the site of the first successful use of helium in a dirigible, the USS Shenandoah, in 1923.

Membership Minute

by Julie Jennings, Membership Director

Last year was quite a year! And our calendar for 2026 is under construction. We have shuffled some things, and our January meeting this year will be our Volunteer Forum as well as our Board elections and by-law review. I am working on a really fun location and meeting format, so please save the date and mark your calendars for the third Tuesdays of odd-numbered months for 2026. **Locations may vary!**

Joining our social media groups gets you information but doesn't get you membership in the WPNA. Please join so when you attend WPNA-sponsored events, you get all the benefits of being a member.

Membership dues renewal is January 1 each year. If you took advantage of our prorated dues, you may already be renewed for 2026. A great many of you are. Dues have remained the same low cost for more than 13 years (\$15 per household and \$25 per business). There are all kinds of benefits of membership, so if you live (own or rent) in West Plaza, please join or renew! You can do it on-line at the website, westplaza.org. Just hit the Become a Member button and fill out or update your contact and household information and volunteer interests. At the end there are many ways to pay via PayPal. You don't have to have a PayPal account—that is just the service we use for online payment. We also have a Venmo account, and I can send you the code any time. At any WPNA event or gathering you can join in person and get your swag—cool neighborhood items to show your support of our association.

We had two nominations for the 2026 Board at the November meeting. Nominations are still open, and we welcome you to get in touch with me or any board member to get your name on the ballot. Self-nominations are accepted.

The weather keeps trying to knock out our Holiday Open Houses, but we had a great turn out and some holiday shopping was done with our small businesses who participated on November 29.

Our Home of the Month will continue in 2026. All but two winners last year were already members. And, of course, they are all members now! We are working on other initiatives, so please

attend the Volunteer Forum on January 20 to connect with your neighbors and find out how you can help make events happen. ■

Thank You to All Our Business Members who Renewed Early!

Athena Printing
1807 West 45th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111
816-931-5525
athenaprintingkc.com

Joseph Pinter Realtor
435 Nichols Road
Kansas City, MO 64112
816-686-7530
www.josephpinter.com

Plaza District Council
Kansas City, MO
plazakc.org

Ricardo Rizo Art
Kansas City, MO 64111
816-809-1546
coffeemakesmefeelfunny@hotmail.com

Shelton Travel Service
4800 Belleview Avenue
Kansas City, MO 64112
816-753-4888
sheltontravel.com

Signature Properties
by Alice Ballew
913-287-0651
signatureproperties.kw.com

The Koehler Bortnick Team
Reece Nichols
434 West 47th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111
816-213-4623
veronicajaster.ReeceNichols.com

The Organic Salon
1517 Westport Road
Kansas City, MO 64111
www.theorganicsalonkc.com

(List continued on p. 8)

Managing Difficult Relationships

by Martha Childers, EdSpec, LPC, LCPC

Relationships can be challenging. Family relationships can be very challenging. Over the period of a lifetime, childhood jealousies and hurtful interactions can accumulate and simmer. They can create estrangement.

So what can we do about that? There are many possibilities. We can limit how much time we spend with someone. We can excuse ourselves and leave. We can lower the level of communication from open to cordial to civil. We can ignore comments that are hurtful and unproductive. If we're lucky or skilled, we can come up with phrases that put an end to hurtful comments that open old wounds such as, "That was a long time ago." We can accept the fact that hurtful things happen in relationships and just let it go. We can check in with trusted friends or loved ones to confirm the validity of our experience, and then possibly confront the issue in hopes of clarifying the situation and healing the relationship.

In the end, we have to decide how much energy and time we want to expend on certain people. I like to check in with myself after an encounter to see how I'm feeling about myself. Do I feel uplifted and nurtured, or do I feel downtrodden and less-than? I consciously gravitate towards the former in any case.

Especially in this season of family gatherings, it is valuable to remind yourself that you have options in any situation.

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

Renew Your Membership!

If you have not yet become a member of the WPNA, the new year is a fine time to do so. You can find a membership form on page 7.

For the small amount of \$15 (household) or \$25 (business) per calendar year, you can help the WPNA in its mission to keep West Plaza a vibrant, safe, and friendly place to live.

All of our programs and services point in the direction of communication among neighbors, safety in the neighborhood, and beauty in our surroundings. Our strength is in our members. Homeowners, renters, and businesses are all welcome to join. ■

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: Tuesday, January 20

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

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



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West Plaza Home of the Month

The Home of the Month program is going great. This year's Home of the Month winners are displayed on our website, westplaza.org, under the Home of the Month tab.

For the upcoming awards, let us know if you would like to nominate a house that fits the monthly themes listed on the website.

The program will continue in 2026. Visit the website for details.

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 | 7. Neighborhood Cleanup |
| 2. Codes & Zoning | 8. Neighborhood Improvement Project |
| 3. Kids Club – Moms & Dads Club | 9. Neighborhood Watch |
| 4. Meeting Refreshments | 10. Newsletter Distribution |
| 5. Membership Activities – Events – Happy Hours | 11. Pet Group |
| 6. Membership Initiatives – Survey | 12. Senior Outreach |
| | 13. Yard Sales |

- 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. ☐

January-February 2026

New/Renewed Business Members 2026 (continued from p. 4)

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

The Pressed Penny
 1512 Westport Road
 Kansas City, MO 64111
 816-982-3622
thepressedpennytavern.com

WareMoore - Beaded Jewelry
 8324 E. 57 Street
 Kansas City, MO 64129
 913-433-3548
waremoore.com

The Wandering Phoenix
 2219 S. Hall Rd.
 Independence, MO 64052
 816-666-3334
thewanderingphoenix@gmail.com

YOUR BUSINESS LISTING HERE.
 SUPPORT THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND
 WPNA FOR \$25 PER YEAR.