



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, November 17, 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Mae's Tavern Happy Hour 5:00-6:00
Social Half-Hour Begins at 6:30

Mae's Tavern
1511 Westport Road

Join us for our next neighborhood meeting on Tuesday, November 17. Come early for happy hour from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., then stay for the neighborhood meeting from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Nominations for the 2027 board will be taken at the meeting. If you'd like to become more involved with your neighborhood, you are welcome to nominate yourself. Even better, nominate yourself and a friend, and you can both help steer the direction of West Plaza in the coming year.

Refreshments will be served, and the meeting will end with a raffle prize.

Additional agenda details will be shared via email and the website as the meeting date approaches. Mark your calendar! ■

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2026 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

West Plaza Neighborhood Meetings

Meeting Location Varies

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

Third Tuesday of odd-numbered months:
~ November 17 ~ January 19, 2027

BOARD MEETINGS

First Tuesday of each month
November 3 ~ December 1 ~ January 5

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Monday following board meetings of even-numbered months

EVENTS

November 28: Holiday Open House (Saturday)

Holiday Open House

Saturday, November 28, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Location TBA

What started as an alternative when the weather washed out Art in the Park a number of years ago is still going strong!

* Featuring local artists, craftspeople, vendors without a brick and mortar, and some of our WPNA businesses.

* Raffle prizes

* Homemade present-making station

* Ready-to-go Holiday gifts

* S'mores

* & More!

There may even be a stroll that includes our business neighbors with bigger prizes!

Stop by to walk off a little of your
Thanksgiving feast!

President's View: Fix the First Broken Window

by Ken Williams

In 1982, two criminologists published an article in *The Atlantic* that gave us the Broken Windows Theory. The observation is simple and has held up for forty years. If a building has one broken window and nobody fixes it, the rest of the windows eventually get broken. Then graffiti appears, cars get broken into and stolen, homes and businesses get burglarized, drugs get sold, shootings happen, and the whole block spirals. Not because the neighborhood is bad, but because the unfixed window is a signal: Nobody here is watching, and nobody here cares. The theory got stretched into some policing it was never meant to justify, but the core of it is just common sense that any homeowner already knows. Small disorder, left alone, invites bigger disorder. Fix the small things.

That's the whole philosophy of this column. The question is how you actually get the small thing fixed, because most people go about it in a way that's guaranteed to fail.

Here's what doesn't work on its own. Calling your councilperson. Emailing a department. Posting on Facebook. All of those put your problem in a human being's inbox or social media feed, and that's where problems go to be forgotten. The city tracks work by case number. If your problem doesn't have one, as far as the city is concerned, it doesn't exist. Your councilperson will tell you the same thing: They can push a case that exists. They usually won't push a phone call.

City problems: Open a 311 ticket. Do it in writing, through the myKCMO app on your phone or the web version at kcmo.gov/311. Check the map first; if someone already reported it, add to their case instead of starting a duplicate. Attach a photo. Give the exact address, not "the corner by the church." One problem per ticket. Write down the case number. Then follow up. The app will alert you when the status changes. If it sits with no movement for two weeks, add a comment to the case. If it's closed and the problem isn't fixed, open a new one and reference the old number in the first line. A ticket with a history is a different animal from a fresh complaint; it's a record that the city knew and didn't act, and that record is what gets escalated. For code

enforcement cases, you can also watch progress on the city's Parcel Viewer.

- **Crime problems:** Give KCPD a record, not a rumor. The same rule applies. A crime in progress is 911, always. For everything else, start at kcpolice.org and click "Make a Police Report Online." Every submission there gets a tracking number, and that number is what your insurance claim and the crime statistics for our neighborhood both depend on. Minor property crimes with no suspect, like a stolen package or a car break-in, go there. So do three things most people don't know they can ask for:

- **Extra Patrol Request:** If there's a recurring problem at a specific spot, such as a corner where people gather after dark or a house with traffic at all hours, file an Extra Patrol Request with the address and the days and times it happens. It goes to the officers working our sector so they can swing through when it matters. When I asked KCPD how to get eyes on a problem block, this is what they told me to do.

- **Traffic Complaint:** Speeding, blown stop signs, cut-through traffic. Same page, same idea: a documented request for enforcement at a location and time.

- **Drug Activity Tip:** If you suspect drugs are being sold from a house or apartment on your block, don't post about it and don't confront anyone. Report it on the online reporting page so there's a record. If you'd rather stay fully anonymous, kcpolice.org also has a separate Suspected Narcotics Activity form; from the home page, go to "Crime," then "Prevention and Safety Tips." Either way, give them what a detective needs: the address, descriptions of the people involved, vehicles and plates, and when the traffic happens. Note dates and times for a week before you submit; a pattern is worth more than one bad night.

If you'd rather talk to someone, the non-emergency line is 816-234-5111. For information you don't want your name attached to, the TIPS Hotline is 816-474-TIPS (8477) or kccrimestoppers.com.

Now, be selective. It's fine to open more than one ticket; if there are three real problems on

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FORKS & RAKES by Stephanie Murrell

3-Ingredient Cranberry Brie Bites

An easy, festive appetizer for the holiday season!

Makes: 24 bites

Total Time: About 30 minutes

Ingredients:

1 package (17.25 oz) frozen puff pastry, thawed

½ lb Brie cheese, cut into small cubes

1 cup cranberry sauce, canned or homemade

Directions:

Preheat oven to 375°F. Cut puff pastry into approximately 3-inch squares and press each square into a muffin cup.

Place a cube of Brie in each pastry cup and top with about 2 teaspoons of cranberry sauce.

Bake for about 10 minutes, or until pastry corners are lightly golden.

Let cool for 5 minutes before serving warm.

Tip: Thaw puff pastry according to package directions for easier handling. For a different flavor, substitute raspberry jam, strawberry preserves, or orange marmalade for the cranberry sauce. ■

Source: *Betty Crocker*



Fall Home Maintenance: Preparing for a Kansas City Winter

Before freezing temperatures arrive, fall is the time to prepare your home for Kansas City's winter weather. Clean gutters, clear leaves from storm drains, trim dead tree branches, and make sure downspouts direct water away from your foundation. Disconnect garden hoses, protect outdoor faucets, seal drafts around doors and windows, service your furnace, and test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Check porch steps and handrails for loose boards, and keep sidewalks clear of leaves and debris.

Special Considerations for West Plaza's Older Homes

Many West Plaza homes are approaching or are more than 100 years old and may need extra attention to stay comfortable and protected through winter.

- **Windows and doors:** Check original wood windows for drafts, cracked glazing, and deteriorating putty. Weatherstripping and interior storm windows can improve comfort while preserving historic character.
- **Foundation and basement:** Look for dampness, musty odors, cracks, and water intrusion. Ensure downspouts carry water away from the house.
- **Wood siding and trim:** Repair damaged or rotting wood before moisture causes further deterioration.
- **Pipes and insulation:** Insulate exposed pipes in unheated basements and crawl spaces. Address drafts carefully, since older homes need proper ventilation to manage moisture.
- **Older paint:** Homes built before 1978 may contain lead-based paint. Use appropriate lead-safe precautions before disturbing painted surfaces.
- Finally, store outdoor furniture and garden tools, check exterior lighting, and keep a shovel and suitable ice melt handy. A few hours of preventive maintenance now can help avoid expensive repairs later while protecting the charm and craftsmanship of West Plaza's historic homes. ■

CityWise

Streetcar Tracks Run beneath West Plaza!

At 45th Street and State Line Road, two curved cracks in the pavement mark buried streetcar rails. Streetcars once turned around here after carrying workers home from Kansas City's meatpacking plants. The city's streetcars made their final run in 1957.



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Fix the First Broken Window

(continued from page 2)

your block, open three. But don't report everything that annoys you, because the person who files a complaint every day gets the same response to all of them, which is none. Spend your effort on the problems that matter most and see them through. The streetlight that's been out since August. The pothole on your street that's been patched twice and opened up again. The house that's been collecting trash for six months. The same unfamiliar car idling on your corner at 2 a.m., night after night. Choose the ones that, left alone, tell the block nobody's watching. Report those, follow each one to the end, then pick the next.

And it's okay to complain to me. I mean that. If you've done the above and something is genuinely stuck, email me at president@westplaza.org and copy wpgeneral@gmail.com with the case or report number and the history. The association can carry a documented, specific, stalled request to the right person, whether that's your councilperson or Central Patrol, in a way it can't carry a general complaint. Give me the paper trail and I'll use it.

Fix the first broken window. Then the next one. ■

On Being Gracious

by Martha Childers, EdSpec, LPC, LCPC

'Tis the season to celebrate the holidays with families and friends. It introduces a myriad of complex situations like being forced to confront more than one feast on a single day or struggles about who gets to hold their family's celebration on the official date. Then there's grumpy Aunt Matilda, who takes it upon herself to inform everyone how everything should be done, or Gramps, who spews his unwelcome political views.

It can help to remember that these times are fleeting and precious. Being gracious by ignoring and overlooking each other's quirks can provide the space to enjoy the things that we cherish, like being together, creating magical memories for little ones, and showing our gratitude to elders for their support through the years.

This time of year people often reach out to a friend or psychotherapist such as myself to help work through issues before the family gatherings. It can help to have an unbiased, objective person to brainstorm solutions to issues that we know we will confront.

Here's wishing you and yours happy holidays.

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

Membership Minute

by Julie Jennings, Membership Director

As I write this in October, it's 89 degrees! Nevertheless, I'm excited that we were able to get a sponsor and host for our Trunk or Treat, held on October 25 in the parking lot of Holistic Planning, a business member, at 1901 West 47th Place. Thank you to our host and all who participated.

We will hopefully see a large number of members at the November meeting, which is once again being held at Mae's Tavern, 1511 Westport Road. Its main focus is nominations ahead of the January election of new Board members and possible re-election of the current board. If you have always wanted to help the neighborhood, this is your chance. Please reach out to a current board member to self-nominate. You could also be a chairperson in an area that is of interest to you where we need help.

We are gearing up for our Holiday Open House. We already have local businesses and area

artists and vendors who want to help make your holiday gifting as easy as taking a walk in the neighborhood. Local, local, local! We hope to see many of you there on Saturday, November 28, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The location has yet to be confirmed, but it will be in one of our business corridors, either Westport Road, 45th Street, or 47th Street. Please look for it as an event on our Facebook Discussion page.

Please also visit our website, westplaza.org, to keep up with our events and programs. Our Home of the Month program functions mostly on the website and our Facebook discussion group, as it is a monthly event. You can find the details about it in an article in this newsletter. Members are allowed to self-nominate their home or nominate a neighbor's home.

Our wish is that you and your family and friends and neighbors have a lovely Holiday season, and we hope to see you out and about in the neighborhood. ■

Stronger Together: Bringing the West Plaza Community Together

by Denny Perdue, Board Member

A great neighborhood is more than the homes, streets, and businesses that fill it. It's the people, the relationships, and the sense of belonging that make it special.

On Tuesday, November 17, at 7:00 p.m., the West Plaza Neighborhood Association invites our community to come together for our next meeting, hosted at Mae's Tavern (see page 1 for more details).

Our neighborhood is made up of many different people, perspectives, and experiences. From local business owners and longtime neighbors to those who work, visit, and spend time in the West Plaza, everyone plays a part in what makes this community unique.

Building a stronger community starts with showing up. These meetings are more than conversations about neighborhood improvements, development, and safety. They're opportunities to connect, share ideas, build relationships, and work toward a neighborhood where everyone feels welcome and heard.

We may not always agree, but we can always find common ground in wanting the best for our community.

Mae's Tavern is proud to host this gathering. Built on the belief that everyone deserves a place where they belong, Mae's looks forward to welcoming neighbors, businesses, and community members for an evening of meaningful conversation and connection.

Come early and enjoy Happy Hour from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.! Grab a drink, meet some of your neighbors, and enjoy some casual conversation before the meeting begins.

You don't need an issue to raise or an agenda to attend. Just bring yourself, your perspective, and a willingness to be part of something bigger.

Let's continue building a West Plaza where people don't just live, work, or visit, but genuinely feel connected.

Because strong neighborhoods aren't built by a few people doing everything. They're built when everyone has an opportunity to be part of something. ■

Hey neighbor!

Scan for menu, hours
& more!



*Bring in this ad for 20% off
your first visit!*

1511 Westport Rd.
Kansas City, Missouri 64111
(816) 600-0903

Come experience Mae's
Tavern! A new chapter of
your neighborhood bar!

New to West Plaza!

Mae's

TAVERN

Cozy spaces. Great food.
Great connection.



Meet Two Nominees to the WPNA Board

Jim Gottsch and Julie Koppen are a husband-wife team who want to be more involved in the neighborhood by being elected to the WPNA Board in January.

They chose the West Plaza area for their retirement after raising six kids in a large home in the Coleman Highlands neighborhood. They wanted to continue to live in Midtown, but were looking for a “house with potential” in a walkable neighborhood with fun restaurants and local businesses nearby. West Plaza was a great fit.

You may know them as the retired couple who restored the stone house that was vacant for 30 years at 44th and Wyoming streets. After five years of extensive renovation, they’ve enjoyed the last six years in their solar-powered home that also powers their electric car, and on really sunny days actually creates more energy than they use. Their house won the second WPNA Home of the Month award in April 2025.

Jim is the mastermind behind their energy-efficient, solar home, and Julie brought many of the environmentally friendly choices to the interior renovation and to their organic, native, and edible gardens.

Jim and Julie are interested in helping the neighborhood be more easily walkable by getting more funding to continue the replacement of sidewalks and working on traffic control, pedestrian safety, and landscaping on Westport Road. They would also like to meet with local businesses to make the neighborhood beneficial to both owners and neighbors and encourage more community involvement.

Jim owned Gottsch Remodeling, specializing in historic home renovations, for 30 years. He designed and built the energy-efficient systems in their current home and is happy to share his knowledge with neighbors who are interested in efficiently insulating their homes and potentially adding solar energy. He also helps their kids with home renovation projects in Kansas City, New Mexico, Florida, Minneapolis, and Illinois.

Julie has worked as a newspaper reporter and editor, director of public relations and communication at Rockhurst High School, operations manager for the start-up Print Forest, and as the

founder and publisher of Greenability Magazine. She also served on the KCMO Environmental Management Commission for eight years. She currently volunteers as a Missouri Master Naturalist with about a dozen environmental groups including Deep Roots, Missouri River Relief, Heartland Conservation Alliance, and Missouri Department of Conservation.

Jim and Julie look forward to working with board members and volunteers on neighborhood improvement projects that increase the safety, enjoyment, and community in West Plaza. ■

From West Plaza to Jefferson City

by Kevin Garner, Board Member

Next January, I’ll trade some of my time in West Plaza for the halls of the Missouri Capitol as your state representative.

What happens in Jefferson City can feel a long way from home, but the decisions made there affect your everyday life. You deserve to know what’s happening, what it means to you, and how your voice can make a difference.

Once the legislative session begins, I will send regular Capitol reports by email. Think of them as a behind-the-scenes look at the bills being debated, the decisions being made, and what it all means for our neighborhood.

Want to receive my Capitol reports? Send me your email address at kevin@garnerformissouri.com and I’ll add you to the list.

Have a question, a concern about an issue that matters to you, or an idea for how state government could do things better? Please reach out. Your perspective matters, and I want to hear from you.

The legislative session may take me to Jefferson City, but West Plaza is still home. I’m grateful to represent this community and look forward to staying in touch. ■

Editor’s Note: We’re so proud of Kevin for taking his commitment to his community to the next level. We know he will do an outstanding job of representing us in Jeff City.

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
@West Plaza Watch
@West Plaza Buy/Sell/Trade

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

Call for Articles

Help us extend the scope of the WPNA newsletter by sharing articles from across the neighborhood. We want the newsletter to reflect the full spirit of West Plaza: its people, stories, history, current events, businesses, and community life. To do that, we need to hear from **YOU**. You can submit an article about West Plaza, Kansas City, local history, current events, neighborhood happenings, or introduce yourself to your neighbors.

If you are a paid business member (\$35/year), you are welcome to submit an article about your business or upcoming events.

Send questions or articles to Julie Tenenbaum at jatkc@aol.com. Deadlines are the first Monday of even-numbered months (February, April, June, August, October, and December) for the following month's newsletter. Articles may be edited for length or clarity. ■

West Plaza Home of the Month

This year's 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 monthly themes listed on the website.

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

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, November 17

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

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. ☐

November-December 2026

Renewed Business Membership

Support the businesses that support our neighborhood!

Mike's Wine and Spirits
1110 Westport Road
Kansas City, MO 64111
816-384-2954
www.mikeskc.com

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

We appreciate our business members! If you have not yet joined, there are some benefits you need to know about. Joining WPNA as a business member allows you the opportunity to advertise in this newsletter, to post weekly on our social media, and to display a sticker on your business door that shows you are a proud member of the WPNA. You are also entitled to a Membership Happy Hour event to get members in your door if they haven't yet discovered you in the neighborhood.

Supporting the WPNA is a two-way street. We encourage our members to shop local and support our business members. Together, we make our neighborhood a great place to call home. ■