



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, May 19, 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Social Half-Hour Begins at 6:30

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Luther Hall
1700 Westport Road

Guest Speakers:

State Senator Patty Lewis

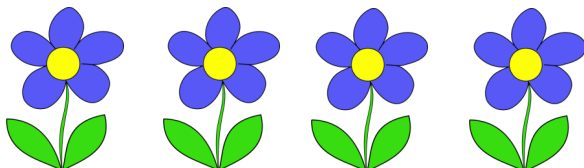
State Representative Emily Weber

We invite you to join us for our next WPNA General Meeting on Tuesday, May 19. Join Missouri State Senator Patty Lewis and State Representative Emily Weber as they share a recap of the Missouri legislative session, its impact on Kansas City, and the look ahead to the election and special sessions.

Refreshments will be served, and the meeting will end with a raffle prize. We hope to see you there! ■

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2026 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

West Plaza Neighborhood Meetings

Meeting Location Will Vary

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

Third Tuesday of odd-numbered months:

May 19 ~ July 21 ~ September 15

November 17

BOARD MEETINGS

First Tuesday of each month

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

May 22: Litter Patrol, 6-7 pm (Friday)

May 23: Spring Cleanup, Westwood Park,
8 am-12 pm (Saturday)

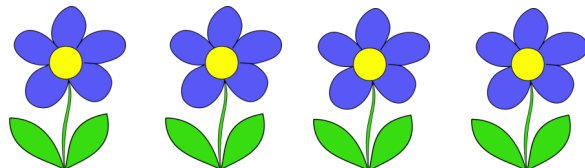
June 13: West Plaza Yard Sales
(Saturday)

September 26: Art in the Park, Westwood
Park, 11 am-4 pm (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

by Ken Williams

Spring is in full swing in West Plaza. It's been an eventful few weeks for our city and our neighborhood.

Your Vote Mattered. On April 7, Kansas City voters renewed the 1% earnings tax with over 75% support—the fourth consecutive landslide since the state began requiring the vote every five years in 2010. That tax generates roughly \$374 million annually and funds nearly half of our city's general fund, paying for police, fire, EMS, street repairs, trash pickup, and snow removal. Thank you to every West Plaza resident who showed up at the polls. Mayor Lucas used the moment to urge state lawmakers to end the five-year renewal requirement. The city now turns its attention to upcoming decisions on water bonds, the Central City Economic Development sales tax, and potentially another Housing Trust Fund bond this November.

Parking Reform Comes to West Plaza. Three days after the e-tax vote, the City Council voted 11-2 to eliminate minimum parking requirements across the Urban Core—and West Plaza is squarely inside that boundary. This means new development and building reuse in our neighborhood will no longer be required to provide a set number of parking spaces. Supporters say this will make it easier for small businesses to open in historic buildings and reduce the cost of new housing. Several Midtown neighborhood associations raised concerns about spillover parking on residential streets, and that's something the WPNA board will be watching closely. The change applies to new construction and changes of use—it does not affect existing buildings or require anyone to remove parking they already have. We encourage residents to attend our May 19 general meeting to discuss what this means for West Plaza.

Get Out and Get Involved. Our Litter Patrol is Friday, May 22, 6-7 p.m., followed by the Spring Cleanup on Saturday, May 23, 8 a.m. to noon at Westwood Park. These are some of our best-attended events and a great way to meet the people who live on your block. With the World Cup just weeks away—Argentina vs. Algeria kicks off June 16 at Arrowhead—this summer promises to be one for the history books. Let's make sure West Plaza is looking its best when the world comes to visit. See you out there! ■

Membership Minute

by Julie Jennings, Membership Director

As Spring is trying to Spring, we are gearing up for this year's events and programs. Spring Cleanup on Saturday, May 23, is fully staffed, thanks to all of you who attended the January Volunteer Forum/General Meeting at Mae's Tavern.

The Eggstravaganza was very well attended and a bit windy, but a good time was had by all!

Please look at the events calendar in this newsletter and on the website at westplaza.org and put them in or on your calendar so you don't miss out on helping or taking advantage of the programs and events we host. Volunteer opportunities are numerous and of various durations...we need extra hands and feet and brains for a great many one-and-done activities as well as monthly or bi-monthly tasks and once-a-year projects.

I've said it before...a strong community builds a safe and enjoyable community. If the WPNA isn't doing what you think it needs to be doing, volunteer, be a voice, and help us.

Reminder that your membership renewal is a donation to the WPNA, a 501c(3) organization, and any donation above the dues is a tax-deductible donation. The link at the end of the membership application will allow you to renew online with PayPal. You always have the option to renew or join at any WPNA activity or event.

We look forward to a crowded city this summer with the World Cup games. I plan on focusing on local, local to calm the crowds! Hope to see you out and about in the neighborhood. ■

Thank You & Farewell, Yoli Barbosa

Long-time West Plaza resident Yolanda "Yoli" Barbosa passed away on December 8, 2025. Yoli was an active member, volunteer, and good friend to many. She was always ready to lend a hand when asked. She spent many neighborhood meetings next to me welcoming attendees to our meetings. Yoli had a natural talent for remembering everybody's name as they entered the room.

I will miss my friend, Yolanda.

~ Marlene Toms

FORKS & RAKES by Stephanie Murrell

Sip Into Spring with Sparkling Strawberry Lemonade

Fresh, fruity, and full of fizz, this easy drink is perfect for spring and summer gatherings. Best of all, it works as both a cocktail and a mocktail, so everyone can enjoy it.



Ingredients

2 oz vodka
1 oz lemonade
1 oz strawberry puree or muddled fresh strawberries
Sparkling water or club soda
Ice
Lemon slice and fresh strawberry for garnish

Directions

Fill a glass with ice.
Add vodka, lemonade, and strawberry puree.
Stir well and top with sparkling water.
Garnish with a lemon slice and fresh strawberry.

Mocktail option

Leave out the vodka.
Add a little extra lemonade or sparkling water. ■

CityWise

Kansas City's GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium will host six 2026 FIFA World Cup matches: four group-stage games on June 16, 20, 25, and 27, plus a Round of 32 match on July 3 and a quarterfinal on July 11. Featured matchups include Argentina vs. Algeria and Ecuador vs. Curaçao.



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Beware: Herbicides & Pesticides Are Poisons

Herbicide vapors and particles can drift up to several miles. They are poisons that can endanger humans and wanted plants, including plants on nearby properties. For safely using herbicides, follow these guidelines.

Environmental Factors

- Do not apply when wind speeds are more than 10 mph.
- Spray only when temperatures are below 80 degrees.
- Check forecast to ensure herbicides have at least 8 hours to dry before rainfall.
- Avoid spraying near bees and pollinating insects and near gutters leading to storm sewers, since herbicides can harm fish and aquatic organisms.

Proper Application

- Herbicide drift (and damage) increases with application pressure and speed.
- Move slowly as you apply the product.
- Select nozzles that produce large size droplets and apply at lower pressure of 15 to 30 psi to have less potential for drift.
- Keep nozzles close to the ground.

Consider helping the planet by using an alternative method.

- Manually remove unwanted plants.
- For larger plants, use a product that can be painted onto the cut stem, rather than a product that needs to be sprayed.
- Contact your MU Extension field specialist in horticulture about lowest risk options for your unwanted plants. ■

BUSINESS MEMBER ADVERTISERS:

THIS SPACE COULD BE YOURS!

\$35 per issue

OR

\$140 for 4 issues

~ July 2026 through January 2027 ~

Remembering Joe Padilla

by Joe Montanari

On January 23, West Plaza lost a neighbor who exemplified just what it means to be a good neighbor. Joe Padilla was three months short of his 95th birthday when he died, having lived in his neat brick house on the northeast corner of 48th and Jarboe for fifty-seven years.

Joe was born in Independence, Kansas, in 1931, when America and the rest of the world were in the depths of the Great Depression. Twenty-five percent of the American workforce was unemployed. Hoping that they might escape the bad times, Joe's family moved back to Mexico, where things turned out to be even worse. From the time he was nine or ten years old, Joe worked to help support his family. By the time he was 16, World War II was over and the US economy was booming again. Joe and his older brother returned to the U.S. in 1947. It was the Fourth of July when they arrived, and Joe thought the fireworks were for him!

In 1954, Joe enlisted in the Marine Corps. Fortunately for him, the Korean War ended in a stalemate while he was still in basic training. Deployed instead to Hawaii and Japan, Joe served his three-year hitch and returned to civilian life here in Kansas City in 1957, where he met and married Rose Bañuelos. Their son Mark was born in 1958. The family moved to West Plaza in 1969.

I have often referred to Joe as "the hardest working man in West Plaza," and his early life and career path attests to that fact. He was a proud member of the Boilermakers Union and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. On one of those jobs, Joe worked on a crew installing high voltage cross-country transmission lines and the tall towers and poles supporting them. Miraculously, Joe survived two separate events when excavations collapsed on him and he was buried alive.

Marines are often called "jarheads," and Joe's work ethic, grit, and tenacity proved it. He was always the first to volunteer and the first to show up. When the neighborhood association took over the care and maintenance of the West Plaza garden park at 46th and Roanoke, our neighbor Ed O'Donnell wanted to plant a tulip tree, and Joe volunteered to help. We agreed to

meet at the park at 10 a.m. one Saturday morning. Ed and I drove out to the Family Tree nursery in my old rattletrap pickup, and when we returned with the tree at 10, there was Joe, waist deep in the hole, asking, "Is this deep enough?" Over the years his neighborhood volunteerism earned him several "Volunteer of the Year" awards.

Perhaps due to his humble childhood, Joe was always eager to help those less fortunate than himself. He put a lot of time and energy into the Marine Corps "Toys for Tots" program, and for many years was one of the top toy collectors citywide.

Joe was not more than five foot six or so, but you wouldn't know it. He was scrappy. Once when his son Mark was in high school, he came home to find that their home had been broken into. A couple of tough young men had been casing the neighborhood and breaking into homes while the occupants were away. Joe happened to be home one morning when he looked outside and saw the men trying to force open the door of the home across the street. Armed with a stout stick concealed behind his back, Joe approached them and asked what they were up to. As they started to run, Joe smacked one across the back hard enough to drop him to the ground, where he held him until the police arrived. The neighborhood crime wave was over. Joe was just barely tall enough, but he was a Marine.

For entertainment, Joe loved watching boxing matches. Recently, his favorite boxer was the two-time Mexican super middleweight champion Santos Alvarez, nicknamed "Canelo" for his red hair. Since neither of us had pay-per-view, I would take him to the Twin Cities tavern on boxing night to see his hero duke it out with someone.

Joe always took meticulous care of his home and yard, but at 93, the task was just too much for him. One day as I walked past his house I saw several men trimming his trees and bushes. I thanked them for helping, and they told me they were Marines and that was what Marines do for one another. Joe told me one of the men was a Lieutenant-Colonel.

(continued on page 6)

Avoiding Elder Poverty

Martha Childers, EdSpec, LPC, LCPC

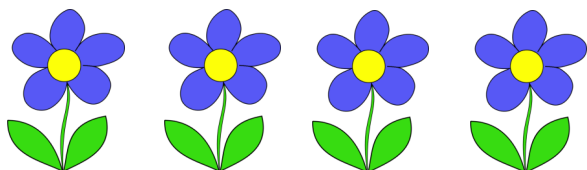
Lately I've been hearing about elder poverty. It's not so bad being poor when you're young, but not great when you're old. Aches and pains, family problems, and life history are plenty to deal with when you're up there in age. Poverty makes these struggles dire. Unfortunately, my best advice for avoiding elder poverty is good financial knowledge and behaviors starting during youth. A friend of mine just had a baby. He opened a savings account for her college already, which provides an easy way for family and friends to contribute to the baby's well-being without adding to the already copious amount of objects that she already has.

Unfortunately, financial literacy is left to families since it is not addressed in school. I wish it were taught starting in kindergarten! Once I had the privilege of leading a group counseling session for homeless victims of domestic violence. During one session, the subject was money. When I asked them if they talked about money in their homes, only one of them said that her grandfather did. I cannot help but wonder if this lack of knowledge contributed to their homelessness.

Beliefs like "money is a source of evil" and "money can't make you happy" contribute to financial ignorance. Research shows that up to a certain point, money can contribute to happiness. After that point, it makes no difference. However, individuals lacking compassion and empathy who are fabulously wealthy are probably not very happy, because money cannot buy meaningful relationships.

My heart goes out to elders who are poor. It's not an easy road to be on. If you or someone you know is in that situation, reach out to the Area Agency on Aging (a state service), which can provide direction to resources to help.

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



BUSINESS MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Jennie Hanna ~ Athena Printing

In October, Toni Gates and I opened Athena Printing at 1807 West 45th Street. Friends for many years, Toni and I raised our kids blocks apart in West Plaza. Now we're growing a business here, and there is no place we'd rather be in the entire metro area.

Athena Printing is a female- and minority-owned business dedicated to elevating the careers of emerging and professional artists and providing print solutions for individuals, businesses, and organizations. We print original art, fine art, photos, banners, wallpaper, window clings, and even stickers and temporary tattoos. It's kind of a blast.

We purchased the business from Lazarus Group, which started more than 25 years ago at the corner of State Line and Westport. Many artists have told us Athena fills a niche in KC, and they're glad to print their work locally, collaborating and approving each step versus handing their work over to an anonymous online vendor.

Our beautiful space includes a gallery where we have recently begun showing the work of local artists. Last month WP neighbor Andy Lozano displayed his line and ink drawings featuring adorable witches, mermaids, and critters. In May, stop by the gallery any Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. to see the delicate miniature landscapes by midtown resident Misty Gates. You won't believe how much beauty she can capture in a 2x3-inch landscape. They are priced so everyone can take home their own print.

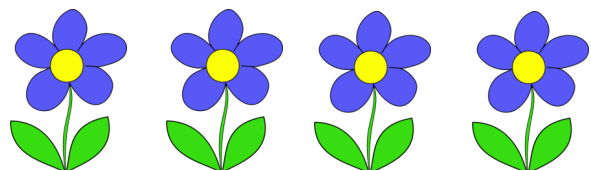
As artists ourselves, we honor the creation of something that has never been before. We want to help artists see the possibilities in their creations. We're open by appointment and would love to say hello!

Artist Reception:

May 1, Friday, 5-8 pm

May 2, Saturday, 12-3 pm

Everyone is welcome!



Remembering Joe Padilla

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Joe's son Mark made arrangements for Joe to enter a Marine Corps retirement community in Houston, near Mark's own home. Before Joe left, I took him to lunch at a sports bar in Mission. The place was packed, and seated a few tables away were several well-dressed women. As we waited to be served, the women got up to leave. One of them spotted Joe's Marine Corps Veteran hat and marched right over, kissed him on the cheek, and said "Thank you for your service." I told him "Joe, you've got to get me one of those hats!"

Semper Fi, my friend.

Call for Articles

Help us extend the scope of the WPNA newsletter by sharing articles from all 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 also 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, May 19

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

Newsletter edited and formatted by:

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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



PROTECTING CHILDREN DURING WORLD CUP

Community Training Series

This training series provides an overview of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC), with a focus on how to:

LEARN HOW TO:

- RECOGNIZE** warning signs of exploitation
- RESPOND** safely and appropriately
- REPORT** concerns to help protect children

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Community members • Healthcare professionals
Teachers • Coaches • Youth workers
Hospitality staff • Volunteers • Advocates

Free Training Series

- April 15**
CSEC 101 & Kids on the Run with Cornerstones of Care
- April 29**
CSEC 101 & Sports Trafficking with MO-NACA
- May 13**
CSEC 101 & Medical Emergencies with Children's Mercy Hospital
- May 27**
CSEC 101 & Gameday Safety with KCPD

All courses are from 11:30 AM-1:00 PM

Register at: www.eventbrite.com

Scan QR Code to Register



 Child Protection Center

Thank You to All Our Business Members Who Have Renewed!

Support the businesses that support our neighborhood!

AAA Insurance

7916 Halsey
Overland Park, KS 66215
913-314-5714
stearns.donald@ace.aaa.com

Christopher Filley Antiques

1721 West 45th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111
christopherfilleyantiques@gmail.com

Computer Whisperer

816-868-6870

Immanuel Lutheran Church

1700 Westport Road
Kansas City, MO 64111
816-531-2281

Jennings Plaza Properties

4517 Bell
Kansas City, MO 64111
816-215-1388
www.jenningsKC.com

Kurt A. Aarons DDS

4411 Belleview
Kansas City, MO 64111
816-531-5464
kurtaaronsdds.com

Mae's Tavern

1512 Westport Road
Kansas City, MO 64111
816-982-3622
<https://linktr.ee/maestavern>

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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.

<p>Household (\$15): New [] OR Renewal []</p> <p>Member Name/s: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Kids: _____</p> <p>Pets: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>Zip: _____ Phone: _____</p> <p>Email/s: _____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Business (\$25): New [] OR Renewal []</p> <p>Business Name: _____</p> <p>Contact Name: _____</p> <p>West Plaza Address: _____</p> <p>Mailing Address: _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Zip _____</p> <p>Phone: _____</p> <p>Email/s: _____</p> <p>Website: _____</p>
<p>TOTAL ENCLOSED: Dues _____ + Donation _____ = \$ _____</p>	

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Block Parties 2. Codes & Zoning 3. Kids Club – Moms & Dads Club 4. Meeting Refreshments 5. Membership Activities – Events – Happy Hours 6. Membership Initiatives – Survey | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Neighborhood Cleanup 8. Neighborhood Improvement Project 9. Neighborhood Watch 10. Newsletter Distribution 11. Pet Group 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.

May-June 2026

Thank You to All Our Business Members Who Have Renewed!

Support the businesses that support our neighborhood!

(continued from page 7)

Polsinelli PC

900 West 48th Place, #900
 Kansas City, MO, MO 64112
 816-753-1000
polsinelli.com

Quality Estate Sales & Services

816-215-0726
EstateSaleKC.com

Salon Ado

1813 West 45th Street
 Kansas City, MO 64111
 816-214-8846
salonadoKC.com

WP Salon Spa

4802 Belleview Avenue
 Kansas City, MO 64112
 816-753-4888
wpsalonspa.com

Turnbuckle

913-325-1817

**YOUR BUSINESS
 NAME HERE**

Support your neighborhood while promoting your business!