



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, July 21, 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Social Half-Hour Begins at 6:30
Mae's Tavern
1511 Westport Road

Join us for our next neighborhood meeting on July 21. Come early for happy hour beginning at 6:30 p.m., then stay for the neighborhood meeting from 7:00–8:00 p.m.

With important decisions coming before voters in August and November, this is a timely opportunity to get informed, ask questions, and connect with neighbors. We'll discuss key ballot measures and other issues affecting our community, and we are working to secure guest speakers and community leaders who can share helpful insights.

Raffle tickets will also be available for Mae's Tavern gift certificates and other prizes.

Additional agenda details and guest speaker confirmations will be shared via email and the website as the meeting date approaches. Mark your calendar—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:
July 21 ~ September 15
November 17

BOARD MEETINGS

First Tuesday of each month
July 7 ~ August 4
September 1 ~ October 6
November 3 ~ December 1

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Monday following board meetings of even-numbered months

EVENTS

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)

Trivia Night at Mae's Tavern

1511 Westport Road

Thursday, August 20, 2026

~ How well do you know West Plaza? ~
~ Many other categories included ~
~ Prizes provided by WPNA ~

President's View: West Plaza Runs On Volunteer Power

by Ken Williams

Just about everything the West Plaza Neighborhood Association does depends on volunteers. Neighbors organize the cleanups and litter patrols, put on Art in the Park and the summer yard sales, host the Holiday Open House, and hand-deliver this newsletter to all 1,100 homes in West Plaza. Neighbors also show up at City Hall when decisions get made that affect our streets. As we look toward 2027, we need more of you to step up and serve on the board. Let me make the case for why it's worth your time.

There's more to board service than most people realize. Some of it is out front, like planning the events that bring neighbors together and keeping Westwood Park looking its best. A lot of it is quieter. We sit in on city hearings about the matters that shape West Plaza. This past spring alone, the City Council eliminated minimum parking requirements across the Urban Core, which takes in our neighborhood, and voters renewed the earnings tax that funds nearly half the city's budget. Those decisions get made whether or not we have someone in the room, and a strong board makes sure West Plaza has a voice. Behind it all is the less glamorous work of finances, membership, and communication that keeps any organization like ours running.

You don't need any special background to serve. All it takes is a willingness to show up and care about where you live. The full board meets once a month, on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m., and there are more ways to pitch in than there are seats at the table, from block parties and codes and zoning to neighborhood watch, senior outreach, the newsletter, and our events. If you've ever sat through a meeting thinking the association ought to be doing something differently, that's a good reason to get involved. And as some of our longtime volunteers step back after years of service, we're counting on the next group of neighbors to carry the work forward.

The process to become a board member is simple. We will take nominations for the 2027 board at our November 17 general meeting, and the vote will happen at the Volunteer Forum that

(Continued on page 6)

Membership Minute

by Julie Jennings, Membership Director

As we are halfway through 2026, if you haven't renewed for 2026, please do so! Prorated dues kick in during July, so \$15 now will keep you on track. After July, prorated dues includes 2027.

The board is down to just five members, as three board members have obligations that have caused them to leave the board. If you have some time, we invite you to reach out and help us! There are some previously planned projects that cannot move forward unless we have more people to help us get them done. We have a variety of activities and programs that require all levels of commitment, from one-and-done or day-of volunteer efforts to monthly or bi-monthly tasks, to chairmanship, project manager, or board member positions. Whatever amount of time you have to offer, we can match you with a volunteer project.

The events calendar is on the front page of this newsletter and on the website at westplaza.org. Please put the events on your calendar so you don't miss out on helping or taking advantage of the programs we host!

The 14th Annual Art in the Park is September 26, 2026 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Westwood Park. We hope to have many local artists and perhaps some acoustical musicians too. If you are interested, the link to sign up to be a vendor is on the website. If you have friends or family who would like to peddle their art or craft or maker's treasures, please share the link with them. It will also be available on our West Plaza Neighborhood Association Discussion Page on Facebook.

I've said it before, and I'll say it again: 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 make West Plaza even better.

See you around the neighborhood! ■



FORKS & RAKES by Stephanie Murrell

Fresh Corn and Shishito Pepper Salad

This fresh and colorful salad is a great summer side dish. Sweet corn, lightly cooked shishito peppers, lime, cilantro, and a sprinkle of cheese come together for a bright, flavorful salad.

Serves 4

Ingredients

3 ½ tablespoons olive oil, divided
2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
¼ teaspoon ground cumin
¾ teaspoon kosher salt, plus a pinch
⅓ cup diced red onion
1 garlic clove, minced
3 cups fresh corn kernels, from about 4 to 6 ears
6 ounces shishito peppers, stemmed and sliced into ¼-inch pieces
Green bell peppers may be used instead.
1 large jalapeño, seeds and ribs removed, diced
¼ cup grated Cotija or crumbled feta cheese, optional
¼ cup chopped fresh cilantro leaves and tender stems, plus more to taste

Directions

In a small bowl, whisk together 2 tablespoons olive oil, lime juice, cumin, and ¾ teaspoon kosher salt. Stir in the red onion and garlic, then set aside. This gives the onion and garlic time to mellow in the dressing.

Place the corn kernels in a large bowl.

In a medium skillet, heat the remaining 1 ½ tablespoons olive oil over medium heat. Add the shishito peppers, jalapeño, and a pinch of salt. Cook, stirring occasionally, for 4 to 6 minutes, until the peppers are tender and beginning to brown.

Add the cooked peppers and dressing to the bowl with the corn. Toss well to combine.

Add the cheese, if using, and toss again. Garnish with fresh cilantro and serve. ■



Don't Wait for the Dark: How to High-Tech Prep for Summer Blackouts—Step-by-Step Emergency Execution Plan

The Pre-Storm Routine (When a Heat Wave is Forecast)

Max Out Batteries: Charge your power stations, portable power banks, phone hotspots, and wearable neck fans to 100%.

Freeze Your Water: Fill plastic jugs with water and freeze them solid to act as ice blocks for your fridge.

Pre-Cool the House: Drop your home AC temperature lower than usual the night before the expected outage to baseline the house at a colder temperature.

Immediate Actions (The First 10 Minutes of an Outage)

Seal the Envelope: Drop all blackout shades and tape reflective Mylar blankets over south- and west-facing windows.

Protect the Fridge: Group items tightly inside the refrigerator. Tell everyone in the household that the fridge doors are now on strict lockdown to preserve the 4-hour cooling window.

Boot Up the App: Plug your critical electronics into your portable power station and pull up its companion app to monitor your energy draw and adjust settings to extend battery life.

Sustained Management (During the Hottest Hours)

Create a Cooling Zone: Retreat to the lowest, most shaded level of your home. Deploy your cordless pedestal or tabletop fans to create a continuous cross-breeze.

Activate Active Tech: Put on your thermoelectric cooling neck band to target your pulse points and keep your core body temperature regulated.

Deploy Solar: If safe to do so, place your portable solar panels outside in direct sunlight and daisy-chain them to your power station to keep the battery topped off.

Stay Mobile: Use your 5G mobile hotspot for critical news updates, saving your phone's battery from spinning its internal antennas searching for weak signals. ■

CityWise

Discover Kansas City's biggest events year-round—from First Fridays and KC Beer Week to Comic-Con and the Big 12 Championships. Visit visitkc.com/events/annual-events-kansas-city/ to start planning your next outing.

Democracy Lost and Regained

by Martha Childers, EdSpec, LPC, LCPC

After Athenian tyrants were overthrown in 508/507 BCE, Cleisthenes introduced the political system “demokratia” (rule by the people). Hence, democracy was born. Athenian democracy evolved and lasted 170 years until King Phillip II of Macedonia (Alexander the Great’s father) conquered Greece in 338 BCE.

Subsequently, Greece was ruled by a succession of empires: Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman. In 1839 the country gained its independence from the Ottomans after the Greek War of Independence concluded. Then a succession of kings and royal houses ruled. Finally in 1973, over two millennium (2,311 years) after losing their democracy, the citizens of Greece held a referendum abolishing the monarchy and restoring democratic rule.

Some say that democracy is fragile. In the case of Greece, that is certainly true.

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



Election: Mark Your Calendar for Tuesday, August 4

by Kevin Garner, Board Member

The August 4 Missouri Primary Election is an important opportunity to help shape the future of our community and state. While primary elections receive less attention than November elections, the decisions made this summer will have a direct impact on local government, our initiative petition process, and how we are taxed.

Voters will select candidates for several offices, including the next County Executive. In addition, voters will decide four proposed amendments to the Missouri Constitution and four Kansas City ballot questions.

Make a plan to vote on August 4 and encourage your friends and neighbors to do the same. Go to kceb.org to check your voter registration status and polling location, review a sample ballot, and learn ways you can vote early, by mail, or on Election Day. ■



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~September 2026 through January 2027~



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~ September 2026 through January 2027 ~



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

**2026 MIDTOWN KC
COMMUNITY
FEEDBACK SURVEY**



SCAN HERE

Survey open through July 8
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MKC2026>

Results will be shared & discussed at our
Community Engagement Luncheon on 7/16.
Register @ midtownkcnow.org/events

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.



President's View (Continued from page 2)

opens the new year in January. You can put your own name forward or nominate a neighbor, and self-nominations are welcome. If you'd like to talk it through first, reach out to me directly at president@westplaza.org, talk to any current board member, or email the association at wpnageneral@gmail.com. Our general meetings, held the third Tuesday of odd-numbered months, are open to everyone and are a great place to get a feel for what we do. Come introduce yourself. West Plaza is one of the most charming neighborhoods in Kansas City because the people who live here have always been willing to roll up their sleeves. Let's keep that going in 2027. I hope to see you soon. ■

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, July 21

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: _____ <div style="text-align: right;">Zip _____</div> Phone: _____ Email/s: _____ Website: _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED: Dues _____ + Donation _____ = \$ _____	

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| 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 | 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.

July-August 2026

Thank You to Our Business Members Who Have Renewed!

Support the businesses that support our neighborhood!

Fountain City Lash & Brow
 1211 West 47th Street
 Kansas City, MO 64112
 816-898-4878
vagarocom/
fountaincitylashandbrow

Massage Studio KC
 1711 Westport Road
 Kansas City, MO 64111
 816-777-8652
massagestudiokc.com

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