



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 15, 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Social Half-Hour Begins at 6:30

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Luther Hall
1700 Westport Road

Join us for our next neighborhood meeting on Tuesday, September 15. Come early for happy hour beginning at 6:30 p.m., then stay for the neighborhood meeting from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

With important decisions coming before voters in November, this is a timely opportunity to get informed, ask questions, and connect with neighbors. Jordan Herrera (U.S. Congress—4th District) and Kelly Thompson (County Legislature—1st In-District) have been confirmed, and we are working to secure other guest speakers and community leaders who can share helpful insights.

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:
September 15 ~ November 17

BOARD MEETINGS

First Tuesday of each month
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)

Join the WPNA!

If you have not yet become a member of the WPNA, you can do so online or by using the membership form on page 8.

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. ■

President's View: West Plaza Runs On Volunteer Power

by Ken Williams

On Sunday, November 1, we will set the clocks back, and by the middle of that week, it will be dark before most of us get home from work. I've spent my whole career in security, and if there's one thing the work has taught me, it's that most crime is opportunity. Fall is when opportunities multiply: darker evenings, packages on porches, cars parked overnight with visible items inside. The good news is that the countermeasures are simple, cheap, and mostly about habit.

Start with light. A porch light on a dusk-to-dawn sensor or a simple timer costs a few dollars and removes the single easiest cover there is. If your block has a streetlight out, report it to 311—it's a five-minute call, and it matters.

Empty your car every night. The overwhelming majority of vehicle break-ins are unlocked doors and visible items—a bag, a charger, loose change. Lock the car, take everything inside your house, and there's nothing to steal. While you're at it, close the garage door. It sounds obvious—but drive the neighborhood at 9 p.m. and count the open ones.

Have a package plan. Holiday shipping season starts earlier every year. Deliver to your workplace, use a locker, ask a retired neighbor to grab boxes—and return the favor with theirs. Which brings me to the real point.

The best security system in West Plaza isn't a camera or an alarm. It's the neighbor who knows your routine well enough to notice when something's off. Introduce yourself to the households on either side of you and the three across the street. Trade phone numbers. Check on the folks who don't get out as much once the weather turns. A connected block is a protected block, and it's also just a better place to live.

Finally, know your three numbers and use them without hesitation: **911** for emergencies and crimes in progress, **816-234-5111** for the KCPD non-emergency line, and **816-474-8477** for anonymous tips. Trust your instincts—you know what belongs on your street better than anyone.

If this is a topic you care about, our Neighborhood Watch effort needs volunteers, and it's exactly the kind of low-commitment, high

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 Saturday, 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! ■

value role where one more set of eyes makes a difference. Email wpnageneral@gmail.com, and we'll plug you in.

Stay lit, stay locked, stay connected—and I'll see you at Art in the Park on September 26. ■

FORKS & RAKES by Stephanie Murrell

Fall Lawn Care: What to Do in September & October

Fall is one of the most important times of year for lawn care in Kansas City. Cooler temperatures, more consistent rainfall, and warm soil create ideal conditions for grass to recover from summer stress and build strong roots before winter.

September: Feed, Seed, and Prepare

1. Fertilize your lawn

September is a great time to give your lawn a fall feeding. A quality fall fertilizer helps grass develop stronger roots and store nutrients for winter. Follow the product's application rate and avoid over-fertilizing.

2. Overseed thin areas

If your lawn has bare or thin spots, early to mid-September is typically the best time to overseed cool-season grasses such as tall fescue. Good seed-to-soil contact is important, so lightly rake the area before spreading seed. Keep newly seeded areas consistently moist until the grass becomes established.

3. Keep mowing

Don't stop mowing just because fall has arrived. Continue mowing as long as the grass is actively growing. Keep your mower height around 3–3½ inches for tall fescue, and avoid removing more than one-third of the grass blade at a time.

October: Build Winter Strength

4. Apply a late-fall fertilizer

A late-October or early-November application can help cool-season grass continue developing its root system before winter. This is often one of the most valuable fertilizer applications of the year.

5. Keep leaves under control

Kansas City trees can quickly cover a lawn with leaves. Don't allow thick layers of leaves to remain on the grass for extended periods because they can block sunlight and trap moisture.

Mow over light leaf coverage to mulch it back into the lawn, or rake and remove heavier accumulations.

6. Continue mowing until growth stops

Grass may continue growing well into November depending on temperatures. Keep mowing until the lawn becomes dormant rather than leaving it excessively tall going into winter.

Easy Chicken & Corn Chowder

Warm, creamy, and perfect for a chilly October evening.

Ingredients

2 cups cooked shredded chicken
4 cups chicken broth
2 cups frozen corn
3 medium potatoes, diced
1 cup milk or half-and-half
½ onion, diced
2 tbsp. butter
2 tbsp. flour
½ tsp. garlic powder
Salt and pepper



Directions

Melt butter in a large pot and sauté the onion for 3–4 minutes.

Stir in flour and cook for 1 minute.

Slowly add chicken broth, stirring as you go.

Add potatoes and corn and simmer for about 15 minutes, until the potatoes are tender.

Stir in chicken and milk.

Simmer another 5 minutes and season to taste.

Serve with warm bread or crackers. ■

CityWise

Season 4 of *Ted Lasso* filmed in Kansas City in July 2025, with Jason Sudeikis and the cast shooting throughout the historic Country Club Plaza, including transforming the real Johnny Was boutique into the fictional “Dazzle Me Moi” store, while Sudeikis’ Kansas City Current jacket hinted at the season’s focus on women’s soccer.

One More Thing: Don't Overdo It

Fall is a great time to improve your lawn, but more isn't always better. Avoid excessive fertilizer, overwatering, and aggressive lawn treatments. Focus on healthy roots, adequate moisture, proper mowing, and good soil contact for new seed.

With a little attention in September and October, your Kansas City lawn can enter winter healthy and come back stronger next spring. ■

VOTE!

by Martha Childers, EdSpec, LPC, LCPC

Recently, local and state elections were held in Kansas City. I like to read about national and international politics, but the real work is done here close to home. I am deeply concerned about the direction our country is taking, and I often think about what I can do about it. One thing I can do for sure is to vote.

Maneuvering the election website was daunting. Looking at the sample ballot was overwhelming. I dreaded making decisions. I contacted friends who tend to be more in the know, but this time they were no help. So I was left with the serious and tedious work of researching the candidates and issues. The League of Women Voters' website, Vote411, was a big help. In addition, I relied on Google searches, advertisements left in my mailbox, conversations with friends, people knocking on my door, and news outlets. It was grueling work, but it was important. My decisions, although informed, were a leap of faith. I don't really know how someone will behave once in office, but I know that I had done my part in supporting our democracy. I voted.

Our next opportunity to take part in steering the direction of our country will be the midterm elections held on Tuesday, November 3. I hope you will join me in (figuratively, not literally) in the voting booth.

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

Fall Cleanup Saturday, October 24 8 am-12 pm Westwood Park 47th & Wyoming

- WPNA Members: Bring your bulky items and yard waste to the bins!
- If you are not yet a member, you can join at the cleanup at the special prorated cost of \$25 for both 2026 and 2027.
- We're still looking for a couple of volunteers. Join your neighbors to help keep West Plaza sparkling!

The Unofficial Rules of Being a Good West Plaza Neighbor

by Kevin Garner, Board Member

Every neighborhood has its own personality. West Plaza is a little bit urban, a little bit residential, and has a whole lot of great people. And while there's no official rulebook for being a good neighbor, there are a few unofficial rules that Jacob and I love about living here and have picked up on.

Say hello. Whether you're walking the dog or sitting on the front porch, a friendly "hey" goes a long way. We've met so many wonderful people this way, and the connections make our neighborhood more connected and safer.

Give our neighbors a little grace. We live closely together, which is part of what makes West Plaza great. Sometimes you'll hear a little extra noise, encounter a busy street, or find yourself navigating around someone's weekend project. Patience is a virtue—especially when we remember that the noise may be someone having fun or that the project beautifies the area.

Support the neighborhood businesses. Grab dinner nearby, meet a friend for coffee, or finally try that place you keep walking past. Our local businesses are an important part of what makes West Plaza feel like West Plaza.

Look out for one another. Pick up a piece of trash while walking. Check on a neighbor during a particularly hot Kansas City day. Help someone carry groceries. Small gestures add up.

West Plaza is a great place to call home because of the people who choose to make it a community. Let's keep looking out for each other. ■



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Martha Childers

Licensed Professional Counselor

www.ChildersCounselingService.com
Martha@ChildersCounselingService.com
816-892-0803

Introducing Board Members Denny and Faith Perdue

Denny and Faith Perdue are the husband and wife team behind Mae's Tavern on Westport Road. When they opened Mae's, they weren't simply opening another restaurant. They were creating the kind of place they believe every neighborhood deserves. A place where people gather, conversations happen naturally, friendships grow, and everyone feels like they have a seat at the table. Their hope has always been that when someone walks through the front door, they feel less like a customer and more like a neighbor coming home.

Community has always been at the heart of what they do. Whether it is partnering with local non-profits, supporting neighborhood events, collaborating with other small businesses, showcasing local musicians and artists, or opening the doors for community gatherings, Denny and Faith believe small businesses have an important role to play. They are more than places to shop or dine. They help create the culture, relationships, and memories that make a neighborhood feel like home.

Like many small business owners, their journey has been filled with both incredible highs and difficult challenges. Every day brings something new to learn, another opportunity to grow, and another reminder that building something meaningful takes time. Together they also own businesses in hospitality, events, entertainment, and creative services, but Mae's has become the place that connects them most closely with the

people around them. It has become a place where familiar faces become friends and first time guests become regulars.

The story behind Mae's is deeply personal. The tavern is named after three remarkable women in their family who shared the name Mae. Each of them lived a life centered on caring for others through food, hospitality, kindness, and service. Their legacy continues to inspire everything Mae's stands for today. The name also honors their oldest daughter, carrying those family values into the next generation. Every meal served, every conversation shared, and every guest welcomed is a small reflection of the love those women poured into the people around them.

Serving on the West Plaza Neighborhood Association Board felt like a natural next step. Denny and Faith have always believed that owning a business means investing in the community that supports it. They wanted to be more than business owners working in the neighborhood. They wanted to be neighbors who listen, volunteer, collaborate, and help create a place where everyone feels connected.

Their hope is simple. To continue building a neighborhood where people know one another, where local businesses support each other, where families gather, and where everyone feels welcome. They believe the strongest communities are built around open doors, shared tables, and genuine relationships. That is the spirit behind Mae's Tavern, and it is the same spirit they hope to bring to the West Plaza Neighborhood Association every day. ■

14th Annual

Art in the Park

Saturday, September 26, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

12+ artists/vendors ■ Strolling musicians ■ Baked goods vendors ■ Art projects for all ages

Raffle prizes provided by artists

WPNA members get free raffle tickets — additional tickets available for \$1 each

~ A full preview of the event is available on WPNA Facebook Discussion Page and Instagram ~

How to Work with a Fine Art Printer

Jennie Hanna, Athena Printing

Sharing your art is creating community. People feel a need to create, to connect, to serve others. For art to thrive, it must be real. To be real, it must be human.

If you have created art, you may have considered selling it at a market or online. Or maybe your grandma painted a treasure years ago and now all your siblings want a copy. Here are a few tips to get you started with fine art—also known as giclee—printing.

Get a high-resolution digital file of your artwork. Most fine art printers need at least 300 dpi (dots per inch) so the art reproduces well at any scale. A flatbed scanner works for smaller pieces. If the artwork is too big or dimensional, a studio photographer can shoot it with perfect light in a controlled environment. Note: You'll also want a low-resolution file (72 dpi generally) to share your work on social media or the web.

Choose your paper. All art reproduces best on a particular paper. The right choice depends on

your medium, the finish desired, and your budget. Printing on canvas usually involves stretching it on bars at additional cost.

Proof the print. Printers will start with a proof of your art to color match to your original artwork. This is your chance to make sure the color, saturation, and hue is the way you want. Sometimes PhotoShop can perform miracles, but the goal is always to reproduce the original image as closely as possible.

Think about margins. Most prints work best at standard frame sizes; custom frames can be expensive. Adding at least a quarter inch white margin to the print allows for perfect float fit when framing.

At Athena Printing, we want artists of all levels, mediums, and experience to feel comfortable showing or printing your work, and we welcome the opportunity to help you achieve the best print possible. Visit us online at Athenaprintingkc.com or at the shop at 1807 W. 45th Street. ■



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.



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, September 15

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

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. ☐

September-October 2026

A Message about Business Membership

Support the businesses that support our neighborhood!

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. ■