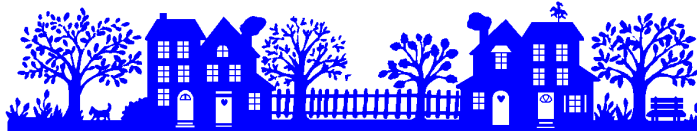


WEST PLAZA

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



Mark Your Calendar

Upcoming General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, May 17, 2016, 7-8 p.m.
Social Half-Hour begins at 6:30
Immanuel Lutheran Church
1700 Westport Road
Topic: Kansas City's 2016-17 Budget
Speaker: Councilperson Jolie Justus

Our guest speaker at this meeting will be Fourth District at Large Councilperson Jolie Justus, who will talk to us about the recently approved city budget for 2016-17. Read the related story on page 2.

If you have not joined the WPNA or have not yet renewed your membership for 2016, you may do so at the meeting. Household memberships are \$15; business memberships are \$25. WPNA bumper stickers, t-shirts, and tote bags will also be available at the meeting.

We will close with a raffle prize from one of our business members. All 2016 members are eligible to enter the raffle. ■

Spring Cleanup on Saturday, May 21, 8 a.m. to ?

Bring your yard waste and large household refuse to the Spring Cleanup, a service co-sponsored by WPNA and KCMO. One dumpster for yard waste and one for household trash will be parked on Wyoming, south of 47th Street and east of Westwood Park. **You must be a resident of the West Plaza to participate.** Volunteers will help you unload, and we will accept items until the dumpsters are full.

Come early to ensure space for your items, but in consideration of the volunteers, do not arrive before 8 a.m. Once the bins are full, the event is over. Do not leave items outside the bin or

(continued on p. 7)

Allied Saints to Play at WP Picnic Saturday, June 18

Come One, Come All! to the West Plaza picnic on June 18 from 12:30 to 4 p.m. Bring your lawn chair or blanket and your favorite picnic food to Westwood Park at State Line & 47th Street. The Neighborhood Association will be cooking up hamburgers and hot dogs in the shelter house from 12:30 to 2:00.

Want a little picnic entertainment? How about listening to music by the Kansas City-based Allied Saints band from 2 until 4 p.m.? They are a vocally driven Rock band with roots in Blues, Soul and Southern Rock. Want a preview? Check out their video promo at Allied-SaintsKC.com. What better way to kick off summer than with good food, family, friends, and music! See you there! ■

WP Yard Sales on Saturday, June 4

If you're having a yard sale this summer, do it on the same day as your neighbors and maximize your exposure! The WPNA will advertise the neighborhood sales on Craigslistkc.com and *The Kansas City Star* (both print and online). We'll also provide a flyer showing the addresses of the sales and what can be found at each. To include your sale in the flyer, contact Julie Tenenbaum (816-931-2276 or jatkc@aol.com) no later than Wednesday, June 1 with a general description of what you'll be selling, your address, email address, and phone number. The flyer will be emailed to you in pdf format so you can print a bunch and distribute them to your customers.

All West Plaza residents are invited to participate in this event, whether or not you're a member of WPNA. ■

Library News

by Megan Garrett, Westport Branch Manager

GET IN THE GAME READ

Greetings from the Westport Branch Library! Please bear with us and pardon our mess as we make some small changes to our branch. Our building was built in 1898, but that doesn't mean we can't offer some modern conveniences! We have

moved some shelving on the first floor, and we will soon be moving the mystery books, audio books, and non-feature DVDs upstairs to the Mezzanine floor. Don't worry—we are keeping the books we have and adding some new ones. Fresh titles are coming our way.

We may have just started spring, but at the library we are already gearing up for summer reading. All kids and teens are invited to join the Summer Reading Program at ANY Kansas City Public Library. This summer's theme is "Get in the Game: READ." This sports theme encourages kids and teens to read about baseball, basketball, football, hockey, ice skating – anything sports related. Visit your local library branch (or us at Westport) to pick up a Summer Reading card beginning Monday, May 23. Simply complete the fun activities on the card, return it to any Kansas City Public Library, and receive a prize! We also have special performances at the Westport Branch this summer:

Thursday, June 9, 10 a.m., Mr. Kneel
Tuesday, June 14, 10 a.m., Paul Mesner Puppets
Tuesday, June 21, 10 a.m., Drum Safari

We hope to see you at any or all of these performances, and any time in between. In the meantime, Keep Reading! ■



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KC Budget, 2016-17

Kansas City's revenues are increasing! There are no layoffs or cuts in services in the 2016-2017 budget just passed by our city council that takes effect on May 1. This budget is all about increasing neighborhood services such as bulky item pickup, vacant lot mowing, recycling centers, and minor home repair. It also adds a few new code inspectors.

While the city's overall budget is \$153 billion, the general fund for basic services is projected to be about one-third of that. Another third is for water and aviation (which are also supported by user fees). The final third is for capital improvements, convention and tourism, and other special programs supported by sales taxes, other voter-approved levies, and grants.

The new budget assumes that KC voters will agree to pass the 1% earnings tax on April 5. Councilwoman Katheryn Shields promoted and addressed our questions about this e-tax at our general membership meeting on March 15. At our next West Plaza Neighborhood Association meeting on May 17, Councilwoman Jolie Justus will address the new budget and what it means to our neighborhood. Come and bring your suggestions and questions. ■

Source: Lynn Horsley, *KC Star*, March 25, 2016



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**d'Bronx has been named best deli by
Feast Magazine, the Pitch and other local
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is ordered from premium suppliers, then seasoned,
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MORE LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT KANSAS CITY
CROWN CENTER | OVERLAND PARK | MISSION



FORKS & RAKES by Stephanie Murrell

Julie's Favorite Fluffy, Flaky Biscuits

Julie normally spends as little time in the kitchen as she can. But she can't resist making (and eating) these small chunks of heaven!

PREP TIME: 30 minutes

YIELD: Baker's dozen

Ingredients

2 cups all-purpose flour	1/2 cup butter
4 teaspoons baking powder	1 large egg
3 teaspoons sugar	2/3 cup milk
1/2 teaspoon salt	



Directions

In a small bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, sugar, and salt. Cut in butter until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Whisk egg and milk; stir into dry ingredients just until moistened.

Turn onto a well-floured surface; knead 20 times. Roll to 3/4-inch thickness; cut with a floured 2-inch biscuit cutter. Place on lightly greased baking sheet.

Bake at 450° for 8-10 minutes or until golden brown.

Serve with your favorite preserves, jelly, or jam. ■

Source: www.tasteofhome.com

Howdy, neighbors! For my spring 2016 *Rakes* section I'm sharing a list of local services and resources that could be beneficial to all West Plaza residents. The list is a compilation of local businesses I've used and/or found by doing research on the internet. To add to the list for future publication in the newsletter, go to the West Plaza FB page <https://www.facebook.com/westplazaneighborhood/?fref=ts> and send a message to the administrator.

Farmers' Markets:

Westport Plaza Farmers' Market, 1550 Westport Road, 913-432-4101

City Market, 20 E. 5th Street, 816-842-1271, thecitymarket.org

Brookside Farmers' Market, 6321 Wornall Road, 913-991-2595

Overland Park Farmers' Market, 7950 Marty, Overland Park, KS 66204, www.opkansas.org

Cultivate Kansas City, 4223 Gibbs Road, KC, KS 66106, 913-831-2444, www.cultivatekc.org

Yard and Waste Pickup Services:

Lawn-Corps, curbside yard waste pickup. 816-761-3046, www.lawncorps.com

Compost Connection, curbside yard waste pickup. 816-761-8300, compostconnection.com

Nature's Rubbish, curbside yard waste pickup, 816-444-4050, www.naturesrubbish.com

KCMO City Leaf and Brush Pickup FAQs: www.kcwaterservices.org/programs/leaf-brush

West Plaza Neighborhood Association Spring and Fall Cleanups:

Saturday, May 21, 2016, 8 a.m. until dumpsters are full, Westwood Park (47th and Wyoming)

Saturday, October 22, 2016, 8 a.m. until dumpsters are full, Westwood Park (47th and Wyoming)

Recycling:

Ripple Glass, Kansas City drop-off sites for glass recycling, www.rippleglass.com

Atlas Glass, curbside glass recycling service, providing bins and home pickup of glass recycling and delivery to Ripple Glass, 913-735-6116, www.atlasglasskc.com

Deffenbaugh Landfill, Customer Convenience Center, 17955 Holiday Drive, Shawnee, KS 66217. For specific landfill or drop-off questions: 913-631-8181, www.deffenbaughinc.com

KC Material Recovery and Transfer. A transfer station that sorts, separates, recycles and transfers various materials. They accept garbage, construction, yard debris, and non-hazardous waste. 4020 Winchester Ave., KCMO 64129. 816-921-8286, www.kcmrt.com

Recycle Spot, Greater KC's one-stop shop for recycling information. www.recyclespot.org

KCMO Public Works FAQs, 816-513-9970, kcmo.gov/publicworks/kcrecycles/ ■

Looking Back: Mr. Anonymous

by Joe Montanari

On the northeast corner of Westport Road and State Line is a stone monument with the name "VOLKER" inscribed on it. There is another in the pie-shaped island between Belleview and Madison, where Westport Road and 43rd Street divide. These neighborhood markers indicate the boundary between our West Plaza neighborhood and the Volker neighborhood to our north. Volker is named for its most prominent resident, William Volker, whose remarkably generous philanthropy made a huge difference in the lives of those he met. Yet Volker himself, a humble and unassuming man, is largely forgotten, and he wouldn't have wanted it any other way.

Volker's father, Frederick, was a miller and farmer in Hanover, Germany, with wife Dorothea and five children, when Otto von Bismarck's Prussians annexed Hanover in 1871. This spelled disaster for the Hanoverians, still loyal to their Austrian king, George V. Along with many of their neighbors, Volker's parents packed up everything they had and boarded a steamship to Baltimore and then a train to Chicago, arriving only three days after the Great Chicago Fire had leveled nearly a third of the city.

After graduating from a Chicago public school, William enrolled in business school. Eager to help his family, William soon went to work as a bookkeeper for a man named Charles Brachvogel, who just happened to be the largest manufacturer of picture frames and moldings in Chicago. Illiterate and gruff, Brachvogel recognized talent when he saw it. Soon, 19-year-old William Volker was recovering thousands of dollars in uncollected accounts and suggesting cost-cutting efficiencies that made Brachvogel's business prosper. When his employer was killed in an accident, the family asked Volker to stay on as manager. The company thrived under Volker's management, but he knew it was time to move on.

Not wishing to compete with his former employer's company, Volker decided to establish his own business in Kansas City, arriving here in 1882 at the age of 23. The completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869 had made Kansas City the "Gateway of the West," and the population was growing exponentially, creating an ideal market for picture frames and household furnishings. With two partners and the grand sum of \$7,000, he formed William Volker & Co. in July

1882. After a number of ups and downs, Volker bought out his partners, and before long the company was turning its first profit. In 1889, Volker's enterprise was doing well enough that he moved his entire family—mother and father, brothers and sisters—to a new home at 3717 Bell Street, which he named "Roselawn."

In 1885, Volker's younger sister Carrie, who had "a good head for business," joined the firm. When their supplier was unable to produce enough window shades to fill their orders, William and Carrie started their own factory, and in 1891, the company began marketing a brand-new floor-covering product called "linoleum." By 1921, William Volker & Co. had net assets of \$2,944,000 (nearly \$39 million in today's money). All the more remarkable was Volker's humility and overwhelming generosity. Despite his enormous wealth, Volker lived comfortably but modestly. He never owned a car, preferring to ride the streetcar downtown to work every day, where he occupied a little desk in the corner of a large office shared with other employees. Remembering a verse his mother had read to him from the tattered family Bible she had brought from Germany, Volker considered it his moral obligation to give away most of his money to those who were in greater need, and to do so quietly and anonymously.

A benevolent employer, Volker paid high salaries and bonuses from the beginning and pioneered a profit-sharing plan and stock options. He ultimately bequeathed ownership of the company to his loyal employees, many of whom stayed with the firm for more than 40 years. Volker's generosity knew no bounds, but there was always a caveat. He insisted upon remaining anonymous. To individuals who had fallen on hard times, he wrote checks, often monthly for the rest of their lives. During the hard times of the '30s, it was not unusual to see as many as 50 people waiting in line to see Mr. Volker.

The list of Volker's civic contributions is long: Mercy Hospital, the German Hospital (now Research Medical), the Wheatley Provident Hospital, the Boys' Hotel, the Helping Hand Institute, and the Florence Home for Negro Girls. In 1916, Volker personally endowed a retirement fund for public school teachers. When a group of citizens led by lumber magnate R. A. Long approached him for support in their effort to build a memorial to World War I soldiers, Volker

(continued on p. 6)

Greg's Calendar

by Greg Madden

Pooches in the Park 1-Mile Dog Walk

Sunday, May 15, 2016, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Rotary Park, 600 NW Vesper Street
Blue Springs, MO 64014

An event for dogs and their owners benefiting Blue Springs Dog Park. Free to attend. \$23 in advance and \$25 on-site to participate in the walk. Join in the many doggie games and contests throughout the day including best trick, best kisser, and best dressed. Try out a Beginner Agility Clinic and a Canine Good Citizen Test on your dog. 816-228-0238, pbuck@bluespringsgov.com

Cooking with Spring's Greens

Friday, May 20, 2016, 12-1 p.m.
Kansas City Community Gardens
Kensington Avenue in Swope Park
Kansas City, MO 64132

Everyone is talking about super foods: kale, collards and other leafy greens, but not everyone knows how to prepare them. Come learn some easy and delicious recipes. You will also learn how to put together simple salad dressings. We will focus on whatever produce is ready to harvest and sample some delicious foods. 816-931-3877

Sixth Annual Westport Beer Festival

Saturday, June 11, 2016, 5-9 p.m.
4057 Pennsylvania Avenue
Kansas City, MO

Over 80 beers from more than 35 breweries. Sample some of the world's best brews, spir-its, and fabulous food along with the opportunity to mingle with principals and brew masters from each brewery and distillery. Tickets are \$35 in advance and \$40 day of the event.

Breakfast & Blooms, Bingham Breakfast & Garden Tour

Saturday, June 25, 2016, 8 a.m. -3 p.m.
Enjoy a home-style breakfast with all the trimmings. Homemade baked goods available at the Bake Sale. Garden tours begin at 10. Tickets for Breakfast & Blooms are \$25 (includes breakfast, garden tour, and tour of the Bingham Waggoner Estate) Breakfast only, \$11.
Bingham-Waggoner Estate
313 West Pacific Avenue
Independence, MO 64050
816-461-3491 ■

West Plaza Floral Garden Report

by Ed O'Donnell

The West Plaza Floral Garden, located in the triangular island bounded by Roanoke Parkway, Jarboe, and 46th Streets, is evolving, year by year. Last year, because I had allowed volunteer sunflowers to grow for a few generations, our "annuals" were species, not hybrid. Years ago, the sunflowers were tall, with one stem and a very large seed head. Last year, they were tall but had multiple stems at the top with very small seed heads. Of course, the goldfinches that fought over the seeds didn't care.

We experience a couple additional problems last year: a) the soaker hose was not as effective as I thought it could have been because the ground was so hard, and b) the mulch on the garden paths that run parallel with Roanoke and Jarboe tended to wash away, so the paths were difficult to keep covered.

I hatched a new plan. Late last year I raked the remaining mulch off the landscape fabric, removed the fabric, and used a garden fork to break up the soil. This year I tilled the exposed ground. The former paths are now our new annual beds, and a soaker hose will run down the center of each. Since the soil is far more aerated, watering should be more efficient. Just for fun, I thought we could grow some edibles in the new beds. How about carrots, cantaloupe, watermelon, and corn (with pole beans growing up the stalks)? Volunteers get first dibs on the produce.

We still want to feed the goldfinches, so the "annual" annual will be the hybrid sunflower Titen. They should be 12' tall with a 18"-24" seed head.

Our Spring Work Day will be Saturday, May 14, 9 a.m. till noon. If you want to have fun with your neighbors and get a little dirt under your fingernails, just come on down to the garden. Questions? Give me a call at 816-531-4692. ■

CityWise

Legendary Hollywood star Joan Crawford's mother and stepfather lived at 4407 Genessee in 1919. Joan would occasionally come home from Rockingham Academy to stay there. Wonder if there was a no-wire-hanger policy in the house?

Counseling for LGBTQIA

by Martha Childers, LPC, EdS

LGBTQIA (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual) individuals have challenges in the world that those with a heterosexual orientation do not face. Due to societal rejection and internal struggles, transsexuals have a staggering suicide rate of 50%. Further, thousands of youth are homeless because their families reject them.

Since these individuals may struggle more, they are more likely to seek therapy. However, they are less likely to stay in therapy unless they have a LGBTQIA affirming therapist. These individuals can be “allies”—a person who believes non-heterosexual orientations are normal, or who also have a LGBTQIA orientation. Check the LGBT Affirmative Therapist Guild of Greater Kansas City at <http://healthcareguild.com/kansascity.html> for a list of affirming therapists.

The Kansas City area offers a wide variety of supports for LGBTQIA, as well as their friends and family, that can be found at their website, <https://kansascityhealthcareguild.wordpress.com/lgbtqia-resources/>. For more tips on living, visit: <http://www.childerscounselingservice.com/> ■

West Plaza Watch on Facebook

by John Toms

Four years ago, in a effort to make West Plaza a safer place for everyone, we created the West Plaza Watch on Facebook. Facebook is a great tool to open up the lines of communication, spread a message in record time, and help residents become more aware of what is happening in our community. It is an excellent vehicle for the proactive targeting of crime and issues of concern to not only West Plaza but the surrounding neighborhoods as well. For example, sometimes we hear that gunshots were heard somewhere in the area, and through neighbors posting on the Watch, it is found to have been a power line transfer box explosion that sounded like a gunshot.

At present we have over 1,250 members, with more joining every day. It is so encouraging to see this type of community involvement from the residents of West Plaza. Keep up the good work, and feel free to join the page if you have not already done so. See the box to the right for instructions about joining.

Mr. Anonymous (continued from p. 4)

told him he thought it a waste of money, and that the funds would be better spent in establishing a university. Meanwhile, he quietly bought up the land where the Liberty Memorial now stands and donated it to the committee.

Perhaps Volker's greatest legacy is embodied in his dream of establishing that university. Now part of the University of Missouri system and called UMKC, Kansas City University opened in 1933 on land donated by William Volker. But that was only the beginning. In 1936, Volker purchased a fine home that still serves as the Chancellor's residence. In 1936, he donated \$225,000 to build a liberal arts building.

William Volker died quietly at Roselawn in 1947 at age 88. He had lived the American Dream, and had given it all away to others. At the time of his death, his furniture and personal effects were valued at less than \$2,500. When you see lists of Kansas City donors, one name appears more than most: “Anonymous.” We may never find out who that name represents, but it's a sure bet many times, it's William Volker. ■

Sources: *Mr. Anonymous*, by Herbert C. Cornuelle; Wikipedia.

Information shared on the page must pertain only to either crime— and safety-related matters that may affect West Plaza, or lost and found pets. Our aim is to share helpful information regarding local crime, to warn other residents of suspicious activity, and to make West Plaza a safer place for all—and also to bring lost pets home to their owners. The more members we have on the Watch, the more information we will be able to share. When it comes to fighting crime, information is the best tool out there. ■

Join the West Plaza Watch Page

The West Plaza Watch Facebook page administered by the WPNA now has more than 1,250 members. It's a great tool to keep us all connected with each other, and it's all about safety and lost and found pets.

To join, go to Facebook -> West Plaza Watch, and click on Join. A private message will be sent to your inbox (in some cases, it goes to your “other” inbox). After you respond to the message, you will be admitted. ■

Spring Cleanup, May 21 (continued from p. 1)

throw them over the top. The truck driver is not allowed to drive with an overfilled dumpster.

Scrapper Roger Argeropolous (816-521-8592) will be onsite to accept your metal items. He will also come to your residence upon request.

We reserve the right to limit quantities. No hazardous waste (including paint), computer equipment, electronics, or tires. No commercial ventures, please.

A truck from Cross-Lines will be present to accept your gently used, working items. Note what you CAN and CANNOT bring for Cross-Lines:

YES: New and used furniture, housewares, clothing and accessories, shoes, and large and small working appliances. All donations must be in good working condition.

NO: Computers and computer equipment, mattresses and box springs, office furniture, and weight equipment. ■

Often when you think you're at the end of something, you're at the beginning of something else.
— Mister Rogers

Renew Your Membership!

The new year is well underway, and it's time to renew your commitment to your neighborhood by supporting the organization whose only reason for existence is the betterment of West Plaza.

Please use the form on page 8 to renew your membership now. For the small amount of \$15 (household) or \$25 (business) per calendar year, you can help the WPNA continue its mission to keep the neighborhood a vibrant, safe, and friendly place to live. All of our programs and services work toward communication among neighbors, safety in the neighborhood, and beauty in our surroundings.

Homeowners, renters, and businesses are all welcome to join. ■

Want to Help Promote Our Neighborhood Meetings?

Do you live or work along one of our busier streets (Westport, 45th, 47th, Roanoke, State Line)? Would you be willing to put a sign in your yard that says, "WPNA Meeting Tonight at 6:30"? If so, please contact us through our website (Westplaza.org) and we will bring you a sign. All you have to do is plant it in the yard on meeting days. We'll tell you when. Thanks! ■

\$20 FISH BONES

To be used at Jax

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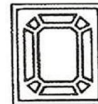
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NOTICE! WPNA Membership runs on the calendar year, from January 1 through December 31. If you have not renewed for 2016, please do it now.

Join Your Neighbors in the WPNA!

Please fill out the information below and return along with your check to:
 West Plaza Neighborhood Association • P.O. Box 32826 • Kansas City, MO 64171-7826
 www.westplaza.org • Facebook: West Plaza Neighborhood Association-Discussion Group

Check One: New Renewal
 Household (\$15) Business (\$25) + Donation _____ = TOTAL _____
 Donations over and above membership dues are tax deductible.

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

e-mail _____

Business Member Contact Name:

I would like to help the neighborhood with:

- Neighborhood Clean-up
- Neighborhood Watch Floral Garden
- Meeting Refreshments Membership
- Newsletter Distribution Feral Cat Program
- Community Garden Picnic Yard Sales
- Other _____

[May-June 2016]

2016 WPNA Calendar

General Membership Meetings (7-8 p.m.)
30-minute social half-hour begins at 6:30

Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1700 Westport Road *(use the northern-most door on the west side of the church)*

WPNA general membership meetings are held on the third Tuesday of odd-numbered months:

May 17 September 20
July 19 November 15

Floral Garden Workday, Sat., May 14, 9-Noon
Spring Cleanup & Litter Patrol, Sat., May 21, 8 am
Yard Sales, Sat., June 4 (times set by participants)
Picnic with Allied Saints, Sat., June 18, 12:30-4 pm
Dance in the Park, Sat., Sept. 10, 6:30 pm
Fall Cleanup & Litter Patrol, Sat., October 22, 8 am

Feral Cat Issues?

Contact Sharon Martin
913-302-2115
Feral.WPNA@gmail.com



To help WPNA sponsor this program, send your donation to P.O. Box 32826, KCMO 64171-7826

Casey A. Hale
Financial Advisor

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Printing of the newsletter for the 1,100 residences in our neighborhood is generously provided by Print Tekk, a West Plaza neighborhood business and member of the WPNA.

West Plaza Neighborhood Association Newsletter
Edited by Julie A. Tenenbaum
Address: 4401 Genessee, Kansas City, MO 64111
Phone: 816-931-2276 Email: jatkc@aol.com

Submit suggestions for newsletter articles to Julie at her email address. 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 for members:

Business card	\$25	Half page	\$50
Quarter page	\$35	Full page	\$100

Display advertising rates for non-members: Add \$20.



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Contact the WPNA

Website:
www.WestPlaza.org

Facebook:
West Plaza Neighborhood Association-
Discussion Group
West Plaza Watch

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

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2016 WPNA Business Members

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