

# The Armour Star

The Newsletter of the Armour Fields Homes Association Including homes in the Armour Fields, Romanelli Gardens and Meyer Circle Subdivisions

Our security service: Midwest Patrol Services 816-454-9191 222 West Gregory Boulevard, Suite 201 Kansas City, MO 64114, Tel. 816/523-2440

www.armourfields.org

February 2006

### Mark Your Calendars ....

- This year's annual Armour Fields Garage Sale will take place Saturday, May 6. We will place advertisements in The Kansas City Star and in the Wednesday Magazine. Please put up directional signs to your home for your sale.
- The annual Armour Fields Homes Association picnic meeting will be on Sunday, June
   The next issue of this newsletter will carry more details.
- Movie Night at the Romanelli Fountain Island returns this year! The first two showings are planned for June 10 and 17.



The Romanelli Fountain island at 69th and Wornall is receiving some heavy renovation, as you have noticed. Details are in the article on page 8.

Would you like to donate to our fountain renovation fund? Please visit www.kcfountains.org to make a tax deductible donation — and make sure to designate a specific fountain, at Romanelli Park. Thanks to all who are helping to support this effort!

# Armour Fields Congratulates Holiday Lighting Contest Winners

We hope that you all enjoyed the winning entries (and all of the other spectacular decorations) which adorned our Armour Fields neighborhood during the holiday season. Armour Fields awarded prizes to the following winners, who were identified with signs placed in their lawns:

Best of Show: 6920 Pennsylvania, owned by Steve Pilard and Bruce Hoyle.

> Most Elaborate: 1020 West 69th Terrace, owned by Joseph and Pamela Meyer.

Most Original: 421 West 68th Street owned by Michael and Patricia Mansur.

Most Colorful: 1028 Romany Road, owned by Gerald Ray. Best Block: 600 block of 69th Terrace (between Pennsylvania and Valley).

The homes association board also gave "honorable mentions" to last year's major winners, 601 West 70th Street and 6810 Pennsylvania, as well as to 652 Romany Road.

Thanks to everyone in the neighborhood who decorated their homes for the holidays. The number of tour buses and increased traffic of sightseers certainly validates that the entire neighborhood was full of holiday spirit and looked very festive. You may have noticed that an article about Kansas City area holiday decorations in the Metropolitan edition of *The Kansas City Star* in December featured our neighborhood and quotes from several people in the neighborhood about the holiday spirit of Armour Fields.

Congratulations to all, and we look forward to doing it again next year!

### President's Column

by Doug Jackson President

Recently, we all received our new quarterly dues bill for January through April 2006. Unfortunately, this mailer went out earlier than it should have -



our old billing period went from April 2005 to April 2006. Given the fact that most of us pay or a s s e s s m e n t s promptly, we will have paid twice for the current quarter.

There was also

a mistake in the wording for those who cannot pay for the total dues (including secur-ity). Instead of "Security Portion of the Assessment", it should be "Assessment without Security". The difference is not dramatic in terms of dollars, but it should have been caught.

These mistakes are ultimately my responsibility and I apologize for the error. We are asking that you pay the current assessment, and we will not be sending out a 2nd quarterly mailing in April. In this way we will adjust for the early billing while avoiding the cost of another mailing.

On the bright side, we have received several great suggestions to provide better communications about how our money is being spent.

The first is a Treasurer's overview including a general budget break-down. The overview is intended to show where our money really goes - and how little is being spent on so called "discretionary" activities (meetings, social events, etc). The reason

### Armour Fields Receives Award!

Last November the Homes Associations of the Country Club Plaza (HACCD), the umbrella organization for homes associations throughout the metropolitan area, handed out special awards to metropolitan area

we are able to do so much in these areas with very little funds is due to the volunteerism we continue to see at both the Board and block levels. Without this help, our dues would be much higher.

The second is an update on the Romanelli fountain island. Though the revenues for the refurbishing of the island are not coming from the general account (we are relying mainly on donations to the fountain fund and Kansas City, Missouri matching funds), the updates should provide all of us with and understanding of the progress of the project and the extraordinary efforts of the fountain committee to keep the costs well UNDER its original budget!

NATURE'S RUBBISH - on environmentally sound way to dispose of yard wester

Owned and Operated by Pam Fleischer Armour Fields Homeowner

444-4050

P.O. Box 8736 Kansas City, MO 64114-0736

ある。

homes associations for remarkable accomplishments during 2005.

The Armour Fields Homes Association won the "Say It Ain't So Award" because errant drivers destroyed not one but two different allstone markers in a single weekend last fall!

Other awards given by HACCD included the "Oops, Never Mind Award" to the Stratford Gardens Homes Association for presenting a holiday lighting award to a festive house that was outside its neighborhood, and the "Rainy Day Blues Award" to the Verona Hills Homes Association for hosting a fully paid-inadvance outdoor movie night that got rained out.

Other, more serious, awards went to the Prairie Village and Rockhill Gardens homes associations for their web sites, to the Crestwood Homes Association for achieving a 99% dues collection rate, and a "City Beautiful Award" to the Greenway Fields Homes Association for restoring a neighborhood landmark and pocket park.

### **Advertising**

The Armour Star reaches about 850 homes in our neighborhood each issue, and accepts advertising at the following rates: Size of the ad on this page: \$30 per issue or \$105 for four issues. Quarter page ad: \$55 per issue or \$180 for four issues. Half page ad: \$105 for one placement, \$370 for four issues. Residents of the Armour Fields Homes Association receive a 20% discount from these prices. Other rates available upon request. Contact the Editor, Don Dagenais, at 444-7407 or e-mail: don913 @kc.rr.com.

### The Newsy Neighbor



#### by Jan Flanagan

As lovely as our neighborhood is, this has to be the dreariest time. The sparkle of holiday lights are gone, the weather is difficult to predict, and it still gets dark far too early. Still, there are bulbs beginning to peek through, and forsythia defying the colder days ahead. Life is good in the neighborhood!...

The holiday lights seem to get better every year. Many blocks have really gotten into the competition, and the rest of us reap the viewing pleasure. Newsy's family picked our own favorites, and some ended up being winning displays, while others were not on the official list. We enjoyed them all. Thanks to everyone who let their lights shine!...

Several blocks have added a Christmas gathering to their neighborliness. The 67th Terrace 400 block enjoyed a progressive dinner just before Christmas. Festivities began with appetizers at the home of Rex Davis and Paul Jernigan, then moved to Bobbie Vanice's where they enjoyed King Ranch casserole, salad and cornbread before moving on to Marcie & Jon Porter's for dessert. Soft drinks were provided by the hosts, and guests carried their own bottles of other favorite beverages from house to house. It made for an enjoyable gathering...

The week before Christmas the gentlemen of Romany Road gathered to toast the holidays and their creative block lightings. A special toast was made in honor of Bill Hiles, "the glue of Romany Road", who passed away last year...

The 600 block of 68th Terrace enjoyed a block party a few days after Christmas. Young and old neighbors gathered at the home of Mark & Valerie Caffrey to catch up on news and enjoy the food and beverages provided by the Caffreys and Jim & Jan Flanagan...

Multiple generations of the Miles family have lived in this neighborhood, beginning with Mark & Elva Miles in 1927. Their daughters Barbara and Betty are long time residents. Barbara & Hal Kaufman are still here; Betty & Bob Langworthy moved only recently. The Kaufman's son Miles currently lives on Pennsylvania; his brothers Dan and Earl each formerly had homes in the neighborhood. In celebration of this long history, the Kaufman children recently honored Betty & Bob on their 60th anniversary with a park bench and plaque in the Romanelli park between Edgevale and 69th. Congratulations on a special anniversary (Editor's Note: See article and photos on page 7 of this issue)...

Time to catch up on baby news! Buffy & Matt Gunter on Edgevale became first time parents August 16 when Peter Mathew entered the world. And it was twins for Tom & Keogh Carlin Duckett of Romany Road. Their boys are Samuel Jacob & Nathan George. Congrats to both sets of new parents!...

Congratulations to Michael Gude of 67th Terrace on reaching Eagle Scout rank. Michael, a junior at Rockhurst, is with Troop 50 at Broadway United Methodist. His proud parents are Thea and Bob...

If you see an adult skimming by on inline skates, there's an excellent chance it's Brad Max. Brad, a former

### Welcome to Our New Neighbors!



We welcome the following new neighbors to the Armour Fields Homes Association. Please take a few moments to welcome them to our neighborhood!

Scott and Mary Smith 1012 West 66th Street Frank and Linda Annecchini 425 West 67th Terrace Brian and Karen Hand 416 West Dartmouth JoAnn Ferguson 420 West Dartmouth Mark and Mary Beth Compton 609 West 69th Terrace Stephen Gaffney and K. Arnold 1015 West 70th Street James and Margaret LaPierre 669 West 70th Terrace Nathan Jonjevic and Pakou Her 440 West Gregory

Homes Association president, skated in 50 events worldwide by the time he reached his 50th birthday. Supporting him along the way is his wife Sheryl...

Young neighbor Tom Wiedeman (his parents are Fifi & Reeves) is only a sophomore at Boston College, but he's already editor-in-chief of an independent student newspaper there...

Are you an alumnus of Rockhurst High, or parent of one? Rockhurst is working on a new "heritage" cookbook which will include bits of history and many short memories from alums and parents. Work is underway, so send

(continued on page 5)

### **Block Captain Update**

by Gail Clair and Kathleen Dorris Block Captain Co-Chairs

Good news! Since our last newsletter Bonnie Vontz at 452 West 70th Terrace and Becky Beers at 411 West 70th Terrace have agreed to be the block captains for the 400 block of West 70th Terrace.

Also, John and Lindsey Beil at 441 West 66th Terrace have agreed to be the block captains for the 400 Block of West 66th Terrace. We are grateful to them for volunteering and look forward to working with them.

The blocks listed below are still in need of block captains. Being a block captain will not take up a great deal of your time throughout the year and it will give you the opportunity to get involved in your neighborhood. It's fun too, so please consider joining us.

If you are interested, please call either Kathleen Dorris or Gail Clair at the phone numbers shown on the back page of this issue.

Our open blocks are: 800-1000 West 65th St., 800-1000 West 66th Terrace, 800-1000 West 67th Terrace, 600 West 68th Terrace, 600 West 69th St., 800-1000 West 69th St., 600 West 70th Terrace, 800-1000 West 70th Terrace, 6500 Summit, and 6500 Valley.

We are making every effort to communicate with all of you via e-mail. Please let us know if your e-mail address changes so that we may keep our records current.

### Your neighbor selling our neighbor.



Buying or selling, let the neighborhood expert work for you.

Call for a free market analysis.

#### Barbara Roche, CRS

Senior Marketing Representative



Business: 913.345.0700 Direct: 913.266,5543

Cellular: 816.223.5288 E-mail: baroche@sbcglobal.net



## Thanks from our family to yours.

We're proud to be part of a select group of American Family Insurance agencies to be recognized by J. D. Power and Associates for providing "An Outstanding Customer Experience" as a Distinguished American Family Insurance Agency. The best part is the recognition comes from you, our customers. Let us show you our commitment and dedication to providing you with outstanding customer service and in finding the right insurance to fit your needs.





Robert Remond Agency Inc. 6315 Brookside Plz Ste 104 (816) 361-8600 Bus Kansas City, MO 64113 rredmond@amfam.com



American Family Mulual Insurance Company and Its Subsidiaries Home Office – Madison, WI 53783 www.amfam.com

0.2004

001778-8/06

### Block Captain Meeting!

Attention, block captains!

A meeting of the Armour Fields block captains will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 23, at 6522 Pennsylvania.

This will be only one of two meetings this year, so please plan to attend!

### The Newsy Neighbor

(continued from page 3)

yours in soon to Cookbook, RHS, 9301 State Line, KCMO 64114...

Dixie Pollard recently returned from a cruise with friends to the balmy isles of Hawaii. Maybe she brought the recent warm weather home with her...

Kudos to neighborhood attorneys who were honored as Missouri and Kansas "Super Lawyers" by Law & Politics. Included in this top 5% group are Don Dagenais of Lathrop & Gage and Tim Aylward of Horn Aylward & Bandy...

Hisses and hurrahs – Hisses to icky winter viruses, dog doo-doo left on sidewalks, nasty sweet gum tree seedballs. Hurrahs to neighbors who call in tips for this column, snowmen, and the promise of Spring! Remember, news big or small, your neighbors want to know. Call Jan, the Newsy Neighbor 333-8947 or email jflans@msn.com and BE SURE to write Newsy Neighbor on the subject line.

Ready for a better solution to your computer headaches?



Anytime

Networking Solutions, ILC

(816)210-8783 info@anytimenetworking.com

Owned/Operated by Nicholas Bartels Armour Fields Resident



### **Shelton Travel Service**

Serving Area Travelers Since 1945

Mark Ebbitts, President (Romanelli Resident Since '86)

SPECIALIZING IN VACATION TRAVEL

4800 Belleview 2 Blocks West of the Plaza



PLAZA3-4888

www.sheltontravel.com e-mail address: info@sheltontravel.com

### We Cordially Invite You And Your Family To Experience Friendly, Gentle, Personal, General & Cosmetic Dentistry



Dr. Steven Lemieux

Good dentistry is more than excellent clinical skills, the latest technologies and stateof-the-art equipment. Establishing lasting relationships with patients based upon mutual trust and open communication, is an important factor. All of our staff members are highly qualified in their fields: dentist, hygienists, clinical support and business personnel.

We are all completely dedicated to caring for our patients needs and providing them with the highest quality dental services available. The result is an atmosphere of friendly competence where you can get the quality of care you deserve and need to keep your teeth healthy for life.

Steven B. Lemieux, D.D.S.

General and Cosmetic Dentistry
211 E. 63<sup>rd</sup> St.
Kansas City, MO 64113
For healthy teeth for life call-

816-333-3711

(WE'RE LOCATED IN THE BEAUTIFUL BROOKSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD, ON THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF 63<sup>PD</sup> AND MCGEE)

### **Armour Fields Security**

by Brad Boers Crime Prevention Chair

During the holiday season, more specifically from Thanksgiving through the first week of January, our security provider, Midwest Patrol, increases its patrol hours in our neighborhood.

We do this in an effort to minimize criminal activity and to increase security visibility. We are five years into this program and I am pleased to report their efforts have effectively reduced the number of incidents in our association.

Even though we have enjoyed the benefits a safe neighborhood, now is not the time to let our guard down. Contributing to the safety fund, establishing our neighborhood watch programs, increasing the lighting around our islands and reporting suspicious activity to the authorities are all critical to our continued safety success.

The community effort and support in everything we do, makes this association a special and appealing place to live.

Does anyone have any historic photographs of the Armour Fields neighborhood that they would be willing to share with the homes association? The photos may be used on the homes association web site or in histories. If so, please contact Doug Jackson at the phone number or address shown on the last page of this issue. Thank youl

#### St. John's United Methodist Church 69th and Ward Parkway

Join us for The Procession of Palms on Palm/Passion Sunday, April 9, which will include a dramatic reading of the Passion narrative involving the congregation, choir and several voices.

During Holy Week on Maundy Thursday, April 13, we will have a Service of Tenebrae and Holy Communion at 7:00 p.m.

Our Easter services on Sunday, April 16 will be at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. and will include the Festival of the Resurrection, featuring our chancel choir and Pastor Kyle Hern.

All are welcome at St. John's! Please plan to join us during this holy season.

### Armour Fields Neighbor • Buying or Selling a Home



George Medina Senior Sales Associate

Office 913-652-4385 Mobile 816-838-5178

E-Mail: GeorgeMedina@ reeceandnichols.com

### Call **Team Medina**

For a Free Consultation

Together We Can....

### Help Your Dreams Become Reality!

Licensed in Missouri & Kansas

REECE WICHOLS

Real Estate • Mortgage • Title • Insurance Where SOLD Means More



Sylvia Medina Smith Sales Associate

Office 913-652-4322 Mobile 816-210-6068

E-Mail: SMedinaSmith@ reeceandnichols.com



### Neighborhood Family Purchases Island Bench

The Armour Fields Home Association has begun offering neighborhood residents the opportunity to purchase one of the four new benches of the Romanelli Island park at 69th Street and Wornall Road to help pay the cost of refurbishing the island. A dedication plaque comes with it.

On December 26, the first such bench to be purchased was dedicated at a ceremony held at the park. The plaque was purchased by Dan Kaufman and members of the Kaufman-Langworthy-Miles family in honor of the 60th wedding anniversary of Hal Kaufman and Barbara Miles Kaufman, who grew up in Armour Fields and have lived in the neighborhood all of their lives. Hal Kaufman was the president of the Armour Fields Homes Association in the 1950's.

The parents of Barbara Miles Kaufman, Mark and Elva Miles, moved to 6928 Edgevale in 1927. Elva Miles continued to live there until her death at the age of 98 in 1990. Barbara Miles Kaufman grew up in the house, as did her sister Betty Miles Langworthy.

Mr. and Mrs. Kaufman moved to 432 West 70th Terrace in 1952 and to 622 West 67th Street in 1965, where they still live. Mean-



Hal Kaufman and Barbara Miles Kaufman (right, seated) are shown with Betty Miles Langworthy and Bob Langworthy (left, seated) and other members of the family at the dedication of the new bench plaque (below).



Have you ever counted the SAAB's in your neighborhood?

Come in for a test drive and see why SAAB's are so popular in Armour Fields.



Our company has been in

existence for 25 years as a

SAAB dealership and for 35

George's Imports, Ltd.
Kansas City's Only Exclusive Saab Dealer

8011 State Line Road Kansas City, MO 64114 816-333-6582 while, Betty Miles Langworthy and her husband Bob Langworthy lived in the 600 block of Dartmouth and in the 600 block of West 69th Street during many of those same years. They now live in Claridge Court in Prairie Village.

Two of the Kaufmans' children, Earl and Dan Kaufman and their wives Linda Kaufman and Michelle Stark Kaufman, lived in the neighborhood until the 1990's. Their children spent many childhood years in Armour Fields. A third child, Miles Kaufman, still lives on Pennsylvania across from the Southwest High School building.

This makes four generations of the family who have lived in Armour Fields. Thus, the new plaque adorning the bench in Romanelli Island carries the names Miles, Kaufman, Langworthy and Goldfarb.

### **Update on the Romanelli Fountain Park**

by Doug Jackson

Our Romanelli Island park is going through the major (and messiest) part of its renovation. The board of directors has received several questions from interested residents. Some of the frequently asked questions are below, along with the answers.

At the last Annual Meeting, I heard a cost projection of \$250,000. Is still the case? No. Based on feedback we have received at the annual picnic and the September special meeting we have trimmed the budget substantially. The fountain committee has two goals. The first is to make sure that the work will last many years. The second that the park renovations remain true to its original design. With this in mind, we worked to trim other costs. Costs are now projected to be less than half the original figure.

How are the funds being raised? We are still sticking with the original plan to raise money through donations and matching City funds. Our city councilman, Jim Glover, is working with John Murphy to make sure the City follows through on their request (after all, the City was originally

obligated to keep our parks and islands maintained). There is a fountain fund set up for donations, and thanks to many of you we have raised some funds. See page 1 of this issue for an online contribution opportunity. Please contribute if you can -- it is tax deductible.

I notice that many of the bushes had been removed. Why was this done? Three reasons: First, there was one large bush that was undermining the foundation of the west wall. We removed the bush and are now letting the wall settle back in place, and then will structurally shore it up. Second, we were beginning to collect beer bottles and graffiti on the stonework behind the bushes. By providing more transparency through the bushes, we hope to reduce this problem. Third, several of the bushes were in bad shape, and we intend to use the resources of the Kessler Society to help us get the right bushes for the park.

The stone paths are being replaced. Is there a reason for this? Yes, unfortunately there is. The park has settled badly over the last few years, so much so that the fountain (continued on page 10)

"Who knew buying and selling could be so easy? Ann sold our home in just two days, sparing us weeks of having to clear out of the house for showings with our two children and pets, not to mention the struggle of keeping a house in ready-to show condition while working full-time. Ann also helped us find and buy the home of our dreams.

"She's a real pro."

Jen and Chris Pisano, 409 West 67 St. Chis is well known as the Channel 5 Morning and Noon Anchor. Jen is a Pharmaceutical Rep.



CALL ANN TODAY!

(913) 980-5555 Cell Phone
ann@annhyde.com
www.SellingtheClassics.com
RE/Max First Realtors



# **Brookside St Patrick's**Warm-Up Parade

Tired of watching the St. Patrick's Day parade from the sidelines? Ever wanted to march and be a part of a parade? Here's your opportunity!

Armour Fields residents are invited to join us as representing the Armour Fields Homes Association in this year's Brookside St. Patrick's Warm-Up Parade. The parade will roll out on Saturday, March 11th at 2:00 p.m.

Plans include decorating a flatbed truck and everyone climbing on for the ride. If anyone has access to a flatbed truck and would be willing to let us use it for a parade float, we would greatly appreciate it.

We invite families interested in marching/riding in the parade, as well as, anyone who has an antique car or a convertible who is interested in participating in the parade, to please call Duane Thrutchley, Armour Fields Special Events chair, whose contact information appears on the last page, for details about the parade.

Armour Fields was well represented in last year's parade. So "break out the green" and come celebrate the Irish again this year!

### Hunt Easter Eggs!

Please join us on Join us Saturday, April 15 at 1:00 p.m. for the third annual

Armour Fields Easter
Egg Hunt. This
event will be
held on the
island on
Ward Parkway
between 69th
Street and 69th
Terrace. We
invite everyone to come,
and please bring

your children and grandchildren to the hunt. Costumes and colorful Easter baskets are encouraged! But most of all, bring your youngsters and be prepared for lots of fun.

We will not be sending a mailer this year, so mark your calendars. If you have questions, please contact our Special Events chair, Duane Thrutchley, whose contact information appears on the last page.

### FAMILY DENTAL CARE



Carla King, D.D.S.

315 N. Nichols Rd., Suite 217 (above Eddie Bauer in The Plaza Medical Building)

(816) 561-9847

Accepting most major insurance:
Preferred Provider for
BC/BS of KC and MetLife
and Premier Provider for Delta Dental



### Romanelli Fountain Park

(continued from page 8)

is sloping opposite its original direction. This settling has damaged the pathways badly and they needed to be replaced. For long term durability, we poured a footing with steel reinforcements under the pathways so that we can expect the paths to be in place for another 75+ years. We tried to reclaim some stone but in the end it was more

economical to use new stone to keep the appearance uniform.

Did you use any consultants on the project? We used an architect who has been involved with fountain renovation as well as a consultant from the Nelson Art Gallery.

Will we be able to maintain the changes we are making? The fountain fund requires 20% of the funds be set aside for maintenance. We are budgeting this as part of the total funds being raised for the island.

I heard that you are making the park a place for kids to play. Is this true? No. The park is designed for all of our

residents. We are having movies in the park for residents of all ages, targeted more for adults than to children. The main goal is that we have a usable park, a place for all of us to enjoy well into the future.

### Armour Fields Homes Association Board of Directors

President	Doug Jackson	456 West 68th St.	547-4688
Vice President/	Dave & Vonda	djackson@2md.com 1030 West 68th Terr.	444-3323
Parks & Islands	Jensen	vathemanor@aol.com	
Treasurer	Terry Madden	412 West 69th St. tmmadden1@yahoo.co	361-2918 m
Secretary	Rex Davis	451 West 67th Terr. rdavis@ibtinc.com	268-4892
Special Events	Duane Thrutchley	446 West 69th St. dthrutchley@everestkc.i	361-7596 net
Crime Prevention	Brad Boers	6534 Summit bboers@lockton.com	361-8491
City Liaison	John Murphy	449 West 68th St. kellynjohnmurphy@aol.	361-5222 com
Block Captains	Capri Swanson	1018 West 70th St. cswanson@everestkc.n	361-2653
Fountains	Brian/Lisa Greenw		

The Armour Star is published four times a year by the Armour Fields Homes Association. All articles are written by volunteers from your neighborhood. Postage and printing costs are covered by annual dues and advertising. If you have comments, please direct them to the Homes Association office at 523-2440 or to the Editor, Don Dagenais, at 444-7407, e-mail don913@kc.rr. com.

Copyright © 2006 Armour Fields Homes Association