



The Armour Star

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

222 West Gregory Boulevard, Suite 201
Kansas City, MO 64114, Tel. 816/523-2440

www.armourfields.org November 2005

Our security service:
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Deadline is December 12

Annual Holiday Lighting Contest

The annual Armour Fields Homes Association holiday lighting contest is a regular feature of our winter festivities, and it is coming up soon!

Monday, December 12 is the deadline for you to get your holiday lights in place, if you wish to participate in the Armour Fields annual holiday lighting contest. The four categories to be judged in the contest are:

- Best of Show
- Most Original
- Most Elaborate
- Most Colorful

Winners in these four categories will receive gift certificates from the Brookside Merchants Association. The Armour Fields Homes Association will post signs in the yards of the four winners.

All judging will be fair and impartial.

So...take advantage of breaks in weather between now and the deadline to decorate your home! And for those who prefer to enjoy the lights rather than participate in the contest, please check out the homes in our neighborhood for those tell-tale signs so that you can see the best that our Armour Fields neighbors have to offer!

If you have any questions, please call Duane Thutchley at 361-7596.



Halloween Party Features Festive Garb

October 29 was the day for ghouls and goblins in Armour Fields, as dozens of youngsters dressed in colorful garb (and sometimes their parents, too) gathered at the Romanelli Fountain for our annual Halloween party.

There were games and contests for the kids and Halloween treats for all. Youngsters participated in pumpkin bowling, shooting contests, Halloween croquet, pin the wart on the witch, and dart throwing.

Our thanks go to special events chairs Duane Thutchley and Susan Werner, along with all of the neighborhood volunteers who helped.



These two young ladies displayed just two of the many creative costumes we saw at the Halloween Party on October 29. For more photos, see page 11.

The annual City of Kansas City leaf and brush pickup week will begin on Monday, December 12 for homes in Armour Fields. The City will retrieve up to 15 bags from in front of your house sometime during that week, as long as you have the bags out by 7:00 a.m. on Monday morning. All leaves and brush should be in paper lawn bags.

President's Column

by Doug Jackson
President

If you have been following the news appearing in *The Armour Star* recently, you have undoubtedly seen (and will continue to see) that your



Armour Fields Homes Association board of directors is working very hard to improve the quality of life we enjoy here in Armour Fields. And, as you might guess, making this work takes considerable time — time that in very short supply nowadays.

For those who are relatively new to the neighborhood, it may come as surprise just how much volunteerism there is in Armour Fields. The Board is all volunteer, as is the editor of this newsletter. And all block captains volunteer as well as everyone who contributes their time to support special events (we provide a great opportunity for students seeking service credit for community work).

Those working on the fountain committee as well as the growing number of folks making positive change at Southwest Secondary School — all provide their time without compensation of any kind.

I have been privileged to know many of the folks who have provided service and expertise to help Armour Fields, and I can honestly say that I am continually amazed with the passion they provide for this neighborhood and its future.

They are interesting, successful individuals who seem to have a great

deal of fun making our city better. We all owe them our thanks — not just for the time they provide. Without volunteers, our dues would be at least as high as is the case in suburban neighborhoods. And there would be a detachment which (I think) would reduce the genuine love we all share for our neighborhood.

If you are interested in lending a little support for any of the efforts underway at Armour Fields (or have a new idea), feel free to contact me at (816)916-6385 or via email at djackson@2md.com.

You will be surprised to find how a little involvement in the neighborhood exposes you to the rich history and opportunity existing all around us. You will truly see our neighborhood in a totally new way.

Advertising

The Armour Star reaches about 850 homes in our neighborhood each issue, and accepts advertising at the following rates: 1-3/4" x 2-3/16" (size of the ad on this page): \$12 per issue or \$40 for four issues (a full year). Twice that size (size of ad on page 7): \$20 per issue or \$70 for four issues. Half page ads (for example, see page 11) are \$105 per issue or \$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.

Do You Know Where Your Gutters Go?

About 1,000 residents of this part of the City, including many in Armour Fields, have recently received letters from the City of Kansas City indicating that their guttering system may be part of the problem of overload which the sanitary sewer system is experiencing.

The basic concern is that the sanitary sewers in our neighborhood are receiving much stormwater (rainwater and snowmelt) which they were never designed to handle. Many gutters on our houses empty stormwater directly into the sanitary sewers.

Residents are being asked to correct their guttering voluntarily to help alleviate the difficulty.

A public hearing on the issue was held on October 13, with about 80 residents attending.



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The Newsy Neighbor



by Jan Flanagan

Pumpkins, gourds and fall mums are sharing space with flowers of summer as we enjoy an extended warm spell. Even temperature sensitive impatiens and basil are still sweetening the scene. It's a beautiful fall in the neighborhood!...

New babies are enjoying walks in the fine weather. Nicholas Franano is eating up the attention from his big sisters Catie (age 5) and Carolyn, 2 1/2. He was born July 27 to Nick and Lorie Franano. Lillian Grever is barely a month old. She is watched over by big sis Ellie, 6, and her parents Tom and Mollie...

A warm welcome to new residents Paul & Kathy Diamond. Their John was born shortly before they moved to 68th Terrace. He is now five months and has two adorable big sisters Mary, 4, and Evelyn, 2...

Wedding bells were hard at work in September for neighbors. Jeanne Caffrey (Mark & Valerie) marched down the Visitation church aisle with Daniel Ehrhart. The weather cooperated for a lovely reception at Starlight for Courtney Spiking (Glenn & Joanie) and Mark Sonnenberg. Also tying the knot in September were 68th Terrace newlyweds Michael and Margie Brown. Best wishes to them all!...

The annual listing of neighborhood graduates missed a few. St. Teresa graduate Jessica Johnston is now studying film at KU. Her parents are Christina & Hale. Jessica's young brother Henry just started kindergarten. Also graduating in May was Lee Musser (Dan & Ann). A Bishop Miege grad, Lee is at Michigan State in Lansing majoring in business and inter-

national studies. We wish them both success...

Three area teens have had a whirlwind theater experience. Rockhurst High's production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* was chosen to perform at the

Fringe Festival in Scotland. RHS juniors Andrew Whitaker (Tom & Lissa), Colin Cicchetti (Mary Beth), and Sam Wiedeman (Fifi & Reeves) were among those making the unforgettable trip. Colin was an assistant director and Andrew was on the technical side of the production. Sam played Simon Peter. The three were also on board for the November production at RHS of *South Pacific* with Sam again in one of the lead roles...

(continued on page 7)

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!

Juan Bruses and Geraldine Arrode
6509 Valley Road
Patrick and Katrina Riha
6503 Summit
Jennifer Breedlove
423 West 66th Terrace
Mark and Shelly Kramer
634 West 66th Terrace
Richard and Kelly Funk
440 West 67th Street
Martin and Jane Meulendyke
1001 West 67th Street
John and Susan Reboulet
401 West 67th Terrace
Rex Davis and Paul Jernigan
451 West 67th Terrace
Richard and Tiffany Plouff
403 West 68th Street
Carl Young
400 West 69th Street
Karen Moore
425 West 69th Street

Nathan and Adrienne Garrett
434 West 69th Street
Thomas and Lisa Spencer
445 West 69th Street
Mark Maassen
1021 West 69th Street
Brian and Sue Friesz
1031 West 69th Street
Troy and Erin Davig
645 West 69th Terrace
Tom Rottinghaus
1009 West 69th Terrace
Jonathan and Shawna Meyer
411 West Dartmouth
Roy Chaney and Janet Rider
631 West 70th Street
Gregory O'Brien and E. Reardon
650 West 70th Street
Nicholas Bartels and Brian Hazel
1006 West 70th Street
P. Monteil and C. Hernandez
1012 West 70th Street
Ruben Bueno and Dana Ferry
1015 West 70th Street
Doug Wells and Jan Kyle
638 West 70th Terrace
Marshall Blount
641 West 70th Terrace
Mark and Vicky Nanos
7040 Edgevale
Wendy Weber
628 Romany Road
Graham Foreman and Mindy Clem
1004 Romany Road
Chance and Kelly Pierce
836 West Gregory

Armour Fields Board to Erase Racial Covenants

Last July, Missouri Governor Matt Blunt signed into law legislation designed to remove offensive racially restrictive covenants from the restrictions governing most homes associations in many old neighborhood districts in Kansas City.

This legislation is designed to circumvent the otherwise cumbersome amendment procedures set forth in most homes associations restrictions,

so that homes associations can remove these outdated provisions from their declarations.

The Homes Associations of the Country Club District (HACCD) is facilitating this effort through Dan Cofran, a property attorney who is an Armour Fields resident.

Under the new law, the offensive covenants can be voted out by a simple majority of the association's board of directors. Actually removing the language then requires the filing of some legal pa-

pers with the county recorder of deeds.

The board of directors of the Armour Fields Homes Association is working to remove the racially restrictive language from restrictive covenants in Armour Fields, in conjunction with similar efforts by other homes associations.

In the meantime, Armour Fields already took steps to remove such language from its own bylaws. According to Armour Fields president Doug Jackson, this happened about ten years ago.



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Also, don't miss our special
Christmas musical performance
on December 18!

Fall is the season for block parties in Armour Fields. Some parties, like the one on 69th Terrace (top photo) are calm and conversational, while others, like the party on 70th Street (bottom photo) are more active (here, a ladies' watermelon seed-spitting contest). But a common feature of all seems to be good food, good times, and opportunities to meet and greet neighbors old and new.

We hope you enjoyed your block party!



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Recycle Every Week!

Effective November 1, the KC Recycles program of the City of Kansas City has begun emptying plastic recycling bins every week, rather than every other week. That means there is no more need to remember whether this week is a "recycling week" or not...feel free to leave out your recycling bin every week if you like.

So far in 2005, KC Recycles has recycled 12,200 tons of material. Recycling is going up - from about 1,300 tons per month earlier this year to an average of 1,495 tons per month for August and September.



The items accepted by KC Recycles are:

- Aluminum cans and other metal cans,
- Plastic bottles with a neck (look for the #1 and #2 symbols), such as water and soda bottles, milk jugs

and detergent bottles,

- Office paper, junk mail, newspapers, phone books, catalogues and magazines, and

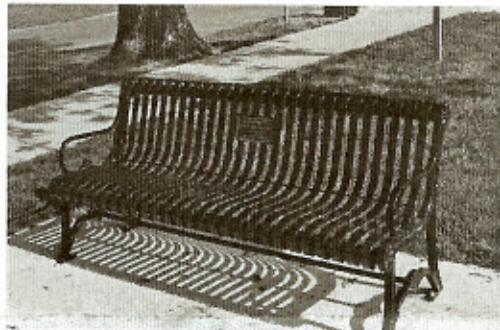
- Cardboard (thick corrugated and also thin cereal box-type boxes).

Remember that extra materials that don't fit in your blue recycling bin can be stacked in cardboard boxes, paper bags or plastic tubs next to the bin. You can purchase an extra bin and put out two if you like.

For additional information, check the Kansas City, Missouri web site at www.kcmo.org, under Neighborhoods and Curbside Recycling.

Reserve Your Own Bench Plaque!

We have all enjoyed the four new benches that now adorn our Romanelli Island near the Romanelli fountain. The picture at right shows a bench like the ones we now have.



We have a small problem, however! As of the publication of this issue of *The Armour Star*, we do not have any plaques on these benches.

As part of the Armour Fields Homes Association's fund raising effort to raise the money to replace the badly worn statue in the Romanelli fountain, the homes association is allowing neighbors to purchase a plaque that can be personalized as a memorial or honorarium. A sample is shown below.

If you are interested in having one of these new benches remember a loved one, or honor someone who loved our neighborhood, you can contact John Murphy (361-5222) or Brian Greenwald (822-0232). We need some donations to help with the Romanelli fountain replacement project, and what better way to donate than to do so in honor of someone who was special to your or our neighborhood?



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The Newsy Neighbor

by Jan Flanagan

(continued from page 3)

It was a perfect fall day for the annual Homes Association Halloween party. Special events chair Duane Thutchley continues to outdo himself with exceptional parties. Many neighbors enjoyed the themed games and refreshments. Craig Nulan was there with Max, 6, as Darth Vader and mod 70's girl Esme, 11. Brian & Lisa Greenwald were introducing their new daughter Leah Ruth, enjoying her first Halloween as a fluffy Dalmatian. Their cowboy son Jonathan, 3 1/2, was most interested in the spooky treats. Jose Aceituno was making sure everything looked great and ran smoothly. (It did, thanks to all his hard work.)...

Peter Thomas brought angel fairy Lucy, 7, her snow princess friend Sienna, 8, and yellow Lab Bell. Mom Julie was home, making classroom Halloween treats. Kathy

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Chaney was one of the workers running the games for the little ones. A monkey by the name of Sofie, 13 months, checked out the action with Melissa Bryan & David Armstrong. J.W. & Sharon Jenkins watched over their white pussycat granddaughter Emily, 3. Todd & Jill Gardner held tiger Nicholas, 2, in check, along with a 19-month old space-man, Declan Berkstresser...

And it was a popular fantasy theme for Doug Law & Patricia Cox and their newly-8-year-old Conor as Lord of the Rings' Aragorn and 9-year-old Katie's Ginny Weasley from Harry Potter. Soccer player Harry Oest also visited the party. Sarah Knight was helping youngsters pin the wart on the witch. Doug Jackson kept an eye on pink fairy Kate, 5, and princess Greta, 3. Mike & Cindy Carroll enjoyed the day with Matt, 6. Matt & Julie Hurley held cute little pumpkin Tristan, 10 1/2 months...

Throwing darts on the ghost were Mitch & Kathleen Dorris' Leah, 5. Cinderella Zoey, 3 1/2, kept mom Vonda Jensen on the run. Sumo wrestler Ian Harmon, 10, and his friend Ninja Clay Lundgren, 7, utilized a pumpkin to knock down ghostly bowling pins as dad Joe Harmon looked on...

Virginia Lawless' granddaughter Virginia Newell, 10, made a charming princess. Her parents Donna & Charles and uncle Kevin Lawless were part of the party crew. Tom & Mollie Grever brought Ellie, 6, a witch with shocking orange hair and newborn Lillian, 3 weeks. Lily Altenhofen, 5, was a sleeping beauty and a lucky one. Her 6-month-old sister Ava wore a bib proclaiming "I love my big sister." Their parents are Chris & Renae. Carrie & Terry Madden were there with Sylvester cat Ali, almost 3, and Molly, 5, a Brookside soccer star. Ellie Thornberry, 15 months, made a splash as an adorable duck accompanied by grandparents Gaylord & Cynthia Reichart. Megan & Greg Ballew escorted Elizabeth, 5, as Jessie the cowgirl, George, 2 1/2 as Disney's Woody and 8 month old pumpkin Julia. The pirate crew arrived with Katy & Tom Rottinghaus — Luke, 4, Pete, 2, and Daniel, 8 months. Scott & Marilyn Urschel's clan brought grandparents Mary & Fred Murdock. Benjamin, 12, dressed as a hazmat crew member while Molly, 7, shimmered as a spider queen. Samuel, 9, missed the festivities...

The Hill family was in the cowboy/cowgirl mode. Emily & Josh, their 3 year old twins Nash and Noah, 15-month Sasha and even grandmother Charlotte were all decked out and ready to ride. More grandparents on the scene were Rick & Ann Lyons with Bridgie Auckland, 9, a vision in purple, and her 6 year old brother Thomas, a pirate. Their parents are Chris & Bryan. Darling Addison Funk, 7 months,

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The Newsy Neighbor

(continued from page 7)

attended her first Halloween affair with parents Kelley & Clayton. Mom Jennifer Pisano was a real standout in her witchy costume, with bright orange hair and vivid striped socks. She and hubby Chris enjoyed the party with their Lorenzo, 2, dressed for the golf links, and Humpty Dumpty Ava, 6 months...

John Murphy waited for wife Kelly, who arrived with "scary guy" Jack, 5, and Mary Liz, 4, a unicorn. David & Jill Hathaway's boys were an army guy (Paul, 7), a Red Power Ranger (Joe, 5), and Buzz Lightyear (Andrew, 3). Bicycling there was Kenner Bowers, 11, son of Michelle & Dan...

Halloween itself brought lots of excitement to the neighborhood. Diana Mullen was with her brood enjoying the frights at Mike & Michelle Markham's home at the corner of 68th Terrace & Penn. The clever sights, smoke and sounds were drawing a big crowd. Romany Road was again a treat to see with all the lights and decorations. And the Jensen yard on Ward Parkway made for a Halloween scare...

It's a wonderful neighborhood! Remember your neighbors want to know your news, big or small. Call Jan, the Newsy Neighbor 816-333-8947 or email jflans@msn.com and BE SURE to write Newsy Neighbor in the subject line.

Southwest High Update

The Armour Fields Homes Association is taking a leading role in getting our community involved in the future of our neighborhood school. The group, known as the Southwest Interest Coalition, already has the involvement of many neighbors, along with other homes associations which represent over 5,400 homes.

The Southwest Interest Coalition is a group of parents, community leaders, businesspeople and neighborhood residents who have a shared interest in the future occupancy of the former Southwest High School building. Group members want to be included in the process of developing a successful District school.

The coalition hopes to develop a positive, relationship-building dialogue with the Kansas City School District board and develop a positive, relationship-building dialogue with the District administration. It also wants to assist the District in efforts to retain students and attract new students to ensure that all public schools in Kansas City continue to grow and improve, academically and financially.

The group hopes to use its connections in the community to facilitate the development and locate potential students for a new school at the former Southwest High School facility, and to generate community support for the District through daily conversations with neighbors and business associates.

Also, the group wishes to support school board candidates who demonstrate that they value truly open public participation and the development of a process for neighborhood/citizen involvement.

A website has been set up for information about the Coalition's progress. It already has a significant amount of useful information. You can find it at <http://www.supportsouthwest.org>. If you are interested, please contact Melissa Jackson at melissa@2md.com.

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Armour Fields Block Captain News

by Kathleen Dorris and Gail Clair
Block Captain Chairs

We are taking the opportunity to introduce ourselves through this newsletter as the new Block Captain Co-Chairs on your Armour Fields Homes Association board of directors.

We are hoping to have an article in every issue of the newsletter to update all of our block captains on important events going on in the neighborhood.

We are planning our first Block Captains meeting for some time in February, so please send us any ideas for discussion you or your neighbors may find of interest. In addition, we believe in using email to send out important announcements and information that is time sensitive.

Block captains represent the residents of each street in providing information from the homes association. Block captains also provide a way for your neighbors to meet each other, foster friendships, enhance security, and provide a better living environment on your street.

Currently, we have several openings that we are hoping to fill soon. The block listing below notes the vacancies that we are wanting to fill as soon as possible. Please

consider lending a helpful hand in joining our team. You can help make a tremendous impact in your own neighborhood.

On Oct 13, Kathleen Dorris attended an area meeting regarding the results of smoke testing in a section of our homes association. Not all blocks were selected for this test, which was basically used to encourage and educate residents to disconnect downspouts to grassy areas or gardens to reduce the rain that enters sewers.

Downspouts that connect directly to sewer pipes increase the risk of sewer overflow and flooding. The city is asking for voluntary compliance at this point.

If you received a letter and want to inquire on the results of the test on your own home you can call Roger Ainsworth, marketing and public relations manager, at (816) 513-0229, or e-mail him at Roger_Ainsworth@kcmo.org. You can also visit the city's website address: www.marc.org/water for more information.

Below please note the listing of block captain vacancies by street. If you live on one of these streets PLEASE consider being a block captain! We need you!! You can contact Kathleen Dorris or Gail Clair for more information.

The contact information is on the last page of this issue. The list of currently vacant block captain positions is:

65th Street (800-1000 Block)
66th Terrace (400 Block)
66th Terrace (800-1000 Block)
67th Terrace (800-1000 Block)
68th Terrace (600 Block)
69th Terrace (600, 800-1000 Block)
69th Street (800-1000)
70th Terrace (400, 800-1000 Blocks)
Summit (6500 Block)
Wornall (6600-7000 Blocks)
Please consider volunteering! Thank you.

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HACCD Hires Ric Delaney as New Executive Director

Ric Delaney has been selected the new Executive Director of the Homes Associations of the Country Club District (HACCD), replacing John Sheets who served with distinction in that position for ten years.

For over ten years Delaney was president of the Oak Meyer Gardens Homes Association and developed tangible changes in the neighborhood, including new curbs and sidewalks, groomed entryways, a vigilant block watch program, and a reserve fund for emergencies. He was honored with a Jim Gary Neighborhood Spirit Award and a full page profile in *The Kansas City Star*.

John Sheets, who revived HACCD and made it into a model of efficient neighborhood organizations, resigned after a decade in his job to relax, travel, and pursue another graduate degree on the way to entering into a teaching career.

Armour Fields congratulates both of these gentlemen on their accomplishments.



Thanks to the initiative of young Armour Fields resident Joe Sittenauer, he and several friends on West 68th Terrace raised \$853 in September to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Inspired by news reports of the hurricane's devastation, Joe enlisted the help of friends Jacque Gillis, Anna and Maddie Shramek, Holden Grooms and Katie Wiedeman. With the help of their parents, and permission of the manager of the Price Chopper store at 6327 Brookside Plaza, he set up a booth, identified with posters, and collected \$471 in one day and \$382 the next day. The money was placed directly into the Hurricane Relief Fund for the American Red Cross that Price Chopper established. Photograph by Dan Sittenauer.

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Costumed Critters Congregate in Community



The Romanelli Fountain was decorated with a Count Dracula balloon (above left), but it didn't seem to frighten away any costumed youngsters from our annual Halloween Party on October 29.

The young ladies seemed to go for angel costumes and the like, while the boys (far right) went for the scarier look, like this frightening version of Darth Vader without the helmet. After all, it's tough to eat goodies with a helmet on!



Many thanks to Duane Thutchley and Susan Werner for doing such a great job of putting together the party, along with the many neighborhood volunteers who lent a helping hand.

The next Armour Fields Homes Association special event is the annual holiday decorating contest. You might take advantage of our warm weather to get your decorations up early!



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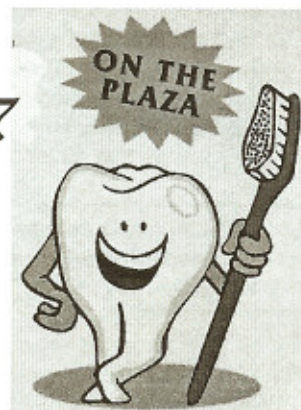
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		lgreenwald@kc.rr.com



To help raise money for Hurricane Katrina, several youngsters from West 68th Terrace held a Pumpkin carving contest last month. Despite inclement weather, everyone had a great time carving pumpkins donated by Cosentino's Market in Brookside.

Molly Mullen, age eight, won the contest and put the winning pumpkin up for auction to raise money for Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts. The high bidder was older brother Jack, who bid \$39. Their father, John Mullen, was happy to keep the prize winning gourd in the family. Photograph by Tim Friend.

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.

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