



# 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

Our security service:  
Chesley Brown International  
816-753-2945

February 2008

## Armour Fields Selects Chesley Brown International as New Security Company

The Armour Fields Homes Association has hired Chesley Brown International as its new security contractor, effective January 1 of this year. Chesley Brown can be contacted 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at either of the following phone numbers: 816-753-2945 or 816-753-2946.

Chesley Brown is a security company which currently handles security for the Country Club Plaza, Brookside and Kauffman Foundation, to name a few locations in our general part of the city.

The new contract calls for an increased level of security service at a cost which is close to that charged by the neighborhood's former security service provider.

Chesley Brown will provide security patrols, similar to those our neighborhood as enjoyed for the past several years. In addition, for those who pay Armour Fields security dues, ChesleyBrown also provides motorist assists such as jumpstarts, towing, 24-hour alarm responses, escorts and calls for service. It will also prepare crime, incident and accident reports upon request.

Those who are out of town or on vacation can request extra security checks on their homes for the times when they are gone.

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### Lighting Winners!

Congratulations to the winners of the Armour Fields holiday lighting contest held last December! The winning houses were:

Best Theme: 421 West 67th Terrace  
Most Outstanding: 6959 Valley  
Best Block: 1000 block of Romany  
Most Elaborate: 601 West 70th Street  
Most Original: 649 West 70th Terrace

Congratulations to these houses (and their owners!) for making our holidays brighter this season, and also thanks to all of the many others who participated. Your work in decorating your homes made the holiday display in our neighborhood one of the most attractive in the city once against this year.

We look forward to an even bigger and brighter set of displays in 2008!



You and any small  
people in your  
family are invited to the  
Armour Fields Homes  
Association's annual

### EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, March 22  
1:00 p.m.

The annual Armour Fields Easter Egg Hunt will be held on the Ward Parkway Island at 69th and Ward Parkway. Everyone is invited!

Costumes and colorful Easter baskets are encouraged! Most of all, bring your youngsters and be prepared for the fun. The homes association will provide the eggs, and treats for everybody!

We look forward to seeing you. Keep your fingers crossed for good weather!

## President's Column

by Dave Jensen  
President

Hello to all!

I know Spring is right around the corner..... I know it has to be! While walking out to get the paper I saw a few bold daffodils and hyacinths bravely poking their bright green heads up from the frozen tundra. Although, the weather certainly has not been promising recently, we know it's coming soon!



We have many events planned for this spring and many more suggestions to pull our community closer together.

We'll be finishing the landscaping at Romanelli and adding two decorative trash cans to match the benches. (Who will empty those trash cans still remains a mystery - volunteers, anyone?) We are currently looking at future improvement projects on many of the other islands.

It's time to clean out your garage, dust off Aunt Hattie's lamp or sneak those toys out the door! Mark your calendars for the AFHA Annual Garage Sale on Saturday, May 3rd. We look forward to seeing you and your family at the Annual AFHA picnic/meeting in June. Watch your mailbox for a mailer for the specific date.

Here are some thoughts on other events that have been tossed around:

- a May garden party,

## Southwest Early College Campus to Open in Sep.

The Kansas City, Missouri School District will be opening the Southwest Early College Campus next August at the site of the former Southwest High School at 65<sup>th</sup> and Wornall Road. This property is within the boundaries of the Armour Fields Homes Association.

The school will open with grades 6 and 9, and two grades will be added each subsequent year until grades 6 through 12 are in place. This school will have a math/science focus and there will be an open-enrollment process including a family conference ensuring that both parents and students are willing to commit to the academically rigorous standards of the school.

Open houses for the new school were held on December 19 and Janu-

- a summer ice cream social in August, and
- the return of movie nights, since the Romanelli Fountain Island, where we used to have these, is now up and running.

Due to other obligations, Kathleen Doris has left a vacancy for a block captain co-chair. We are seeking a replacement for her if you are interested. We are also seeking a volunteer to be the co-chair for the parks and islands, since Zach Heitzman has relocated out of state for his company.

I look forward to seeing all of you catching up on the walks, playing with the kids outside, and creating beautiful landscapes as the weather warms up. Until then, keep that bird seed coming!

ary 12, and additional open houses will be held in the spring. For information about these open houses, call (816) 418-7977.

Anytime the school has an event or meeting coming up, there will be information posted on the school voice mail number at (816) 418-7977.

The early college design means that students attending this school will have the opportunity to graduate with up to 60 hours of college credit. Southwest Early College Campus is being designed and launched by a set of five community partners: the Kansas City, Missouri School District, the University of Missouri - Kansas City (UMKC), the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute, and Kansas City's Partnership for Regional Educational Preparation.

Each of the partners recognize that community involvement is criti-

*(continued on page 4)*

## 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. Twice that size (size of ad on page 2): \$20 per issue or \$70 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 our weather bounces from warm breezes to slushy and cold and back again, at least we know that it won't be long before crocus and snowdrops and other bright blooms pop up to let us know we're headed towards Spring. It's always a beautiful time in our neighborhood!...

The MU and KU flags have been getting quite a workout in the area, as first football season and now basketball keeps the rivalry inflamed. Avid Mizzou fan Melodie Powell reports walking the Cotton Bowl parade route in Dallas with Jerry Short and running into across-the-street neighbors Rob & Robin Linscott with sons Max & Parker. Neither knew the other was going to the Bowl game...

Some people like to celebrate "big" birthdays quietly. That was not an option for Kevin Grooms on his 40th. He awoke to a signboard with flashing lights in his front yard. The former North Carolina resident shares the date with former KU coach Roy Williams and the sign proclaimed the news in bold letters...

Newsy's annual "off to college" column missed Ben Gillis. His parents are Denise & Steve. Ben finished his studies at Bishop Miege High School and is now majoring in business at Northwest Missouri State. Congratulations...

Congratulations as well to Catherine Kuhls, who recently co-chaired a successful fundraiser for FIRE, a foundation set up to provide special educa-

tion services in local Catholic grade schools. And cheers to Jack Euston, son of Kathy & Kevin. The Rockhurst senior received All State, All District and All Metro honors for his performance on the 2007 RHS state champion football team...

More kudos to pass along: Janet & Bob Wholey received the Cross of the Order of St. Benedict from Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas in honor of their distinguished service to the college and the community. The high honor was presented at the annual scholarship ball held here in KC...

Kathy Diamond was the gracious hostess for the annual Women of the Block party on 68<sup>th</sup> Terrace (600 block) held during the holidays. The women take a break from kids and spouses to catch up on neighborhood news while enjoying festive foods and beverages. Santa talk was kept to a whisper until after dad Paul whisked the Diamond darlings Mary, Evelyn  
*(continued on page 5)*

## 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!

- Timmy & Sandra Castillo  
631 West 66<sup>th</sup> Terrace
- Brian and Anna Finigan  
1008 West 66<sup>th</sup> Terrace
- Ronald McMickle &  
Janine O'Shea  
6919 Edgevale
- James Stabler & Tom O'Donnell  
6927 Pennsylvania
- Sarah Strueker  
619 West 69<sup>th</sup> Terrace
- Dean & Aleta Hubbard  
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- Corinne Wolff  
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## Take Advantage of 3-1-1 Action Center

Did you know that the City of Kansas City has a 3-1-1 Action Center phone line that is staffed eight or more hours a day, including weekends? It's true; you can call 3-1-1 to talk to a real live City employee who will record your call, relay it to the appropriate City office and send you a follow-up report.

The 3-1-1 Action Center is staffed from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on weekdays and from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

The Action Center is modeled after the 9-1-1 emergency service, but is for *anything but* emergencies! If your call relates to streets, sidewalks, snow removal, trash, code violations or any other function of City government or services, then 3-1-1 is for you.

## Early College Campus

(continued from page 2)

cal to the success of the school, and therefore they are forming a Community Advisory Council as a vehicle for engaging the community in the design and launch of this school.

Anyone who is interested in being involved in the Community Advisory Council should contact Beth McCarthy, the program associate Kansas City's Partnership for Regional Educational Preparation (PREP-KC), at 816-507-1306, or by e-mail at [bmccarthy@prepkc.org](mailto:bmccarthy@prepkc.org).

The council members will provide strategic guidance

in the development of the new school and serve as advocates for the school in their communities.

Council members will have the opportunity to provide thoughtful feedback on the proposed design of the school, provide guidance and support to the planning committee and attend update meetings and community forums.

Council members will be called upon regularly to offer input on many facets of the school, although all decisions will have to be finalized and approved by the partners..

Surely our neighborhood has some former Southwest Indians who remember the school's heyday and would like to help it rise again!



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## The Newsy Neighbor

by Jan Flanagan

(continued from page 3)

and John off to bed. Betty O'Kell was doing double party duty that evening, leaving early to join in festivities for her grandson's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday...

Neighborhood weddings and engagements to note: Jake Lynch (Georgia & Jim) wed Betsy Sharp on New Year's Eve at Visitation church. They are living in the Brookside area. Brian Legenza (Patty & Ken) is engaged to Abbie King, with a July wedding planned at St. Elizabeth's. Lydia Dagenais (Don & Patricia) is engaged to Tamir Brouwer and they will be wed in July in the Longview Manson gardens in Lee's Summit. The groom's family from the Netherlands will be in town for the event. The couple plans to return to their home in Philadelphia...

David Hayob (Maraline & John) and his fiancée Andrea Hughey have purchased a home in our area. Their nuptials are planned for April. His sister Jeni has a July date set at Visitation. She and her fiancé Shaun Zacharias will continue careers in Chicago...

Justin Dro (Linda & Bob) will wed Michele Tetuan at Visitation in April. His former lawn mowing buddy and now all-grown-up business partner Brian Hughes (dad Jerry) has a date in August with Amy Hartshorn. Their festivities will take place in Cancun. Brian & Justin run Leisure World Pool & Hearth. Justin's parents Linda & Bob are anticipating a trip out West to ski and visit friends and family. Taos, Santa Fe and parts of Colorado are on their itinerary...

Don Dagenais is on the steering committee for the Black and White Masked Ball for the Heart of America Shakespeare Festival...

Many neighbors were on the committees and took part in the annual BOTAR Ball and American Royal festivities. Sighted at various activities were Therese Smith (clipboard in hand), young Claire McCann (a BOTAR page) and her mom Julie, BOTAR escort Bryan Flanagan, decorations committee member Julie Fairchild (daughter of Lisa & Charlie) and longtime supporter Dixie Pollard...

Nothing says friendship like sharing a dumpster! Mary Kay & Jim Hogan and neighbors Andrea & Kevin O'Drowski both planned master bath remodeling projects using the same contractor, so why not share a dumpster? Mary Kay reports everything has gone smoothly. The Hogans are also looking forward to a March visit

from Jim's cousin John Grogan, the author of the best selling book *Marley and Me...*

Corbin Keech (son of Camilla & John) is an architect/designer in Portland. A recent award-winning project of his was featured in *Interior Architecture Magazine...*

Needing trash bags? Academie Lafayette students are selling them as a fundraiser. Ask your favorite student or call 361-7735...

Our favorite neighborhood organizer, Carlene Neihart, is looking forward to the International Pipe Organ Competition named after her, which is set for April 12 at 10 a.m. Admission is free at Village Presbyterian Church to hear talented organists compete for cash awards. All are welcome...

That's it for now. Remember, if you have news big or small, your neighbors want to know! Call Jan, the Newsy Neighbor 816.333.8947 or email [Flanagan.Jan@gmail.com](mailto:Flanagan.Jan@gmail.com) (be SURE to write Newsy Neighbor in the subject line.)



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## Security Tip: Keep Your Car Keys by the Bed

A security expert has recently recommended that you keep your car keys beside your bed at night. Why? Because if you hear a noise outside your home or someone trying to get in your house, you can just press the panic button for your car. The alarm will be set off, the horn will blare, and you may scare away the thief.

Your car security system is one that you probably already have and requires no installation. Test it out (hopefully not in the middle of the night, out of respect for your neighbors), and you will probably find that it will go off from most everywhere inside your house and will keep honking until you reset it with the button on the key fob chain.

Also, remember to carry your keys while walking to your car in a parking lot. The alarm can work the same way there.

This could also be useful for any emergency, such as a heart attack, where you can't reach a phone.

## Decorative Trash Cans Are Coming!

Our neighborhood islands are about to receive another upgrade!

The City of Kansas City has generously agreed to place four decorative trash cans for our neighborhood islands. Delivery is expected in the early spring. The Armour Fields Homes Association has hired stonemason Brian McBride to build concrete platforms for them.

Hopefully these will be in place by the time of the Armour Fields Homes Association annual meeting in June.

### Your neighbor selling our neighborhood.



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# Safe and Secure



by Brian Hand  
Crime Prevention

As you already know from the article on page 1 of this issue, Armour Fields has hired a new security company to patrol our little piece of Kansas City.

Chesley Brown International began servicing our community on January 1, 2008, and has been very responsive to the needs of our residents.

Several of you have already called to have a special watch while you were out of town, others have called to report suspicious behavior, and some have benefited from a jump start for their car on a cold January morning. These are all services that are in addition to the patrols that take place each day.

Another great benefit of Chesley Brown's service is alarm response. Simply notify your home security alarm company, and they will walk you through adding Chesley Brown as your patrol company. The contact numbers to use are 816-753-2945 or 816-753-2946.

When your alarm system sends a signal to the monitoring company, they will in turn contact Chesley Brown,

who will respond in minutes to your home. Even during non-patrol hours, security will typically have a better response time than the police department. This is because they are well staffed and can reallocate resources quickly.

As the weather improves you will see a new side to security in our neighborhood, bike patrols. Chesley Brown will have their officers on bicycles in our neighborhood.

This is a very effective method of patrol, which brings security to a community level. Officers will no longer be relegated to a vehicle that roams the area with no personal touch. Chesley Brown wants to be a part of the community and have their officers engaged with our neighbors, so when you see them say hello.

Our residents expect to receive value for their security dollars, and the AFHA board expects no less. With this new contract we have added services that you would expect when shopping on the Plaza or in Brookside. If it is late and you are walking home from a neighbor's house and need an escort, call security and they will provide an escort.

We are now awaiting the arrival of new magnets with the new security numbers on them and other frequently used numbers. Once they have arrived we will distribute them through the block captains. So watch for them.

Remember, the old magnets you may have are outdated and will not get you in touch with Chesley Brown so discard those and post the new numbers until you get your magnet. Again the numbers are 816-753-2945 or 816-753-2946.

While patrolling our homes association area, security will also be on the look out for safety issues, such as branches in the road, potholes, etc. When they see these things they will notify the City Action Center as well as the AFHA Board so we can follow up.

As accountability is a top priority for our residents, Chesley Brown provides reports to the Safety and Security Liaison for the board so we can monitor performance. If you ever have any questions about security or feedback, please contact Brian Hand for more information.

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## Bulk Collections

Did you know that the 29th of each month is the bulk collection day for our neighborhood? If you have bulky items which you want to dispose of, such as old furniture, appliances, large toys, old barbecue grills, etc., put them at your curb on that day. You do not need to call the City or anyone else for special notification.

No hazardous materials (such as old containers of paint or oil) are accepted; those can be taken to the City's hazardous materials drop-off site at 4707 Deramus between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, but you must call first for an appointment. The number is 816-784-2080.

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## Armour Fields Selects Chesley Brown

(continued from page 1)

Armour Fields switched security service providers from its previous company when the original company went out of business and rolled over the contract to a new company. Brian Hand, Armour Field's security chair, felt that there were some issues with the new company's stability.

Chesley Brown International's mission, according to Josh Noland, its director of security, is "to contribute to the well being of the property...by creating and maintaining a reasonable level of safety and security."

"Chesley Brown's primary tasks are to prevent and/or detect crime, provide a safe environment, protect our clients' assets and report potential safety hazards."

If you have any questions or comments about the security services now being provided by Chesley Brown International, please contact Armour Fields' vice president for crime prevention, Brian Hand, at 444-1185 or at [thehand@everestkc.com](mailto:thehand@everestkc.com).

## Are You Paying Your Security Dues?

You probably received your annual statement of homes association dues in the mail recently. You may have noticed that the dues statement showed that a certain amount of you dues is allocated to the Armour Fields Homes Association security services.

The reason for this allocation is that, under the original Association bylaws, there was no right of the homes association board to impose dues for purposes of providing security to the residents in the homes association. When the Armour Fields board decided to start employing a neighborhood security service in 1995, it had to institute a special security assessment to pay for the cost.

Although more than half of the residents in Armour Fields voluntarily pay the security assessment, a number do not. Those residents, of course, benefit from the regular patrols of the security service even though they do not pay. They are not, however, entitled to the extra services that the patrol service provides, such as special home-watching during vacations, jumpstart/towing service, 24-hour alarm response, escorts, and calls for special service.

So if you're not paying your securities assessment...consider doing so now, so you too can help out the rest of your neighbors in paying for regular patrols, and so you can enjoy these extra services!

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*Happy St. Patrick's Day!*

*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 Editor, Don Dagenais, at 444-7407, e-mail don913@kc.rr.com.

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