



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

May 2008

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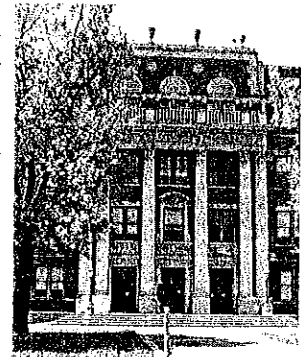
Southwest Early College Campus Enrolling Students

The Southwest Early College Campus school at 65th and Wornall, formerly the Southwest High School, is now enrolling students for grades 6 and 9 only, for the school session beginning in the Fall of 2008.

While the enrollment deadline was in April, the school might still be taking enrollments, so please check it out if you are interested or know somebody who is.

Full information is available at the Southwest Early College Campus web site at <http://www2.kcmsd.net:80/pages/swecc.aspx>. You can also call the Kansas City Missouri School District admissions office at (816) 418-7505, or call Beth McCarthy, a program associate at PRE-KC, one of the school's sponsors, at (816) 418-7977.

The school will eventually have grades 6 through 12. The plan is to begin with grades 6 and 9, then add grades 7 and 10 for those students next year, as well as a new crop of sixth and ninth graders, then complete the process for the year afterwards, to have a full complement of grades 6 through 12.



The school will be a math and science campus, which will allow students to utilize an on-site planetarium and science laboratories that rival that of many universities. The school will offer a project-based curriculum with extended-day and extended-year opportunities.

The campus is a partnership of the Kansas City Missouri School District, the University of Missouri-Kansas City, the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation (Kansas City's Partnership for Regional Education Preparation) PREP-KC, and the Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute.

You are invited to the
**Armour Fields
Homes Association
Annual Picnic and Meeting
Sunday, June 8
3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Romanelli Fountain Island
69th and Wornall Road**

Join us at 3:00 p.m. for a short business meeting where we will elect the officers and directors for the next year and bring you up to date on all of the homes association's activities. Afterwards, we will enjoy a late afternoon barbeque picnic dinner.

This year the carnival is coming to Armour Fields, with plenty for the kids to enjoy -- pony rides, magician/balloon artist, popcorn and hot dogs! The adults won't be left out, with adult beverages, brisket and fried chicken. No one will leave hungry!

There is no charge. Come and celebrate summer in Kansas City with your neighbors!

New this year: would you like an extra \$100 to use at your summer block party? We will award \$100 to the Block Captain with the most houses in attendance. So, drag your neighbors with you to the AFHA summer carnival!

Watch your mail for information about upcoming events in the Armour Fields Homes Association:

**Date to be Announced -
Summer Ice Cream
Social**

**Saturday, October 4 -
Oktoberfest Party**

**December - Annual
Holiday Lighting Contest**
Join us for these neighborhood celebrations!

President's Column

by Dave Jensen, President

Well, Spring has finally sprung! I want to put out an invite for everyone to attend the Annual Meeting and Picnic scheduled for June 8th at the Romanelli Fountain. There will be a meeting at 2:00 p.m. with the picnic to follow.

Tentative topics will be a discussion with the new principal of Southwest Early College Campus, as well as preliminary discussions for beautification projects planned throughout the neighborhood for the current budget year. Your input and thoughts will be greatly appreciated.

With the warmer weather please keep an eye out for children and adults walking and biking, as the streets



can be quite narrow in some spots if cars are parked on either side of the street. Our pets are also enjoying the outdoors and keep a mindful eye, or should I say ear, if your pet is a "barker" as the outdoors should be enjoyed by all.

The fountains are up and running and spring plantings are underway for the parks and islands. Feel free to stop and smell the flowers, throw a frisbie, read a book, or have a relaxing picnic.

I hope to see everyone at the picnic. As always, if any questions of issues present themselves, do not hesitate to contact me or any of the Armour Fields Homes Association board members for answers or help. We are all listed on the back page of this newsletter.

Bulk Pick Up Now by Appointment

Bulky item pickup by the City of Kansas City, Missouri has changed as of May 2008.

Because of cutbacks in the City's budget this year, which you have all read about in the paper, bulky item pickup is now available only as matter of appointment. There is no regularly scheduled bulky item pickup in our neighborhood or any other neighborhood.

If you have bulky items, you may call the City's environmental management department at (816) 513-3490 to schedule a pickup by appointment.

This items is an update from the last newsletter in February, when bulky item pickup was still a regularly scheduled item.

Historic Homes Tour is Coming!

The Armour Fields Homes Association has been selected by the Historic Kansas City Foundation for the Foundation's 20th annual homes tour.

The Foundation is looking for at least five homes to be on tour on Saturday, October 11 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Foundation program guide features each home with photos and historical research. At least one tour guide is assigned to each house for the day; homeowners are also welcome to be there. During the event, the Historic Kansas City Foundation provides insurance coverage for the home.

Free shuttle service will be provided to visitors, in addition to free drawings and local sponsors. Each home will have a yard sign designating it for the tour.

If you would like to have your home on the tour, please e-mail or call Joy Crimmins. Her contact informa-

tion appears on the back page of this newsletter. For more information on the Historic Kansas City Foundation, visit its website at www.historic-kansascity.org.

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 5): \$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.



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The Newsy Neighbor



by Jan Flanagan

After our long, long winter, everything seemed to rush into bloom at once. Daffodils, tulips, redbuds, dogwoods, lilacs, flowering crab, cherry, pear and more perfumed the air and delighted the eyes with their showy color.

Now warmer weather has finally settled in and the tomato plants are in the ground. It's great to be gardening in the neighborhood!,,,

So many activities at this time of year. Although there weren't as many families sponsoring sales as in past years, the annual Homes Association Garage Sale generated lots of traffic and a carnival-like excitement. Dixie Pollard's Tilly didn't appreciate all the strangers on his turf. Of course, as the resident cat, he could only meow his protests. He's probably still miffed that Dixie spent several days in Salt Lake City recently researching genealogy but didn't even look for mouser relatives in his family...

Speaking of genealogy, we welcome to Nolan James Dingly, born in February to Nicole & Jamie. He joins big sis May, age 2...

Kudos to Taylor Migliazzo (daughter of Shelley & Paul.) She took home first place honors in the Greater Kansas City Science and Engineering Fair in the junior environmental science group. Another young area scientist, Tom Hogan (Mary Kay

& Jim) was inducted into Sigma Pi Sigma, an honorary physics society, at his college, Truman State...

Rose Hutchison (Judy & Pete) swam to medal honors in Dallas at the Greater Southwest Invitational. The St. Peter's 7th grader touched out the competition in butterfly. Her brother Charlie, a Rockhurst High freshman, was part of the State champion swim team there and received his varsity letter. Pembroke Hill sophomore Andrew Garner has been chosen as a People to People Sports Ambassador in Holland this summer. He will compete in tennis with other teens during a 12-day mini-Olympics in July. Andrew is helping to pay for his trips by doing odd jobs, including lawn mowing, so he hopes you will call him at 822-7194...

Also traveling abroad are Bob Ellis and his son Johnny, a 6th grader at Pembroke Hill. As part of a traditional Pembroke 6th grade adventure, they will head to the Amazon for a week and then to the Peruvian Highlands for another week with a group of students and parents. They've had to load up on vaccines for typhoid, yellow fever, hepatitis A and malaria meds and are ready for an extraordinary experience...

Valley Road resident Parris Thomas jumped her way to first place for trampoline in the state tournament and will compete in the

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!

- Matthew & Sally Sallee
6527 Summit
- Christopher & Jennifer Hanson
445 West 69th Street
- John Rouchka
6933 Pennsylvania
- Kevin Hodge &
Frances O'Shea
616 West 70th Street
- Evan Rosell & Jessica Joseph
638 West 70th Street
- Jason & Jillian Scott
440 West Dartmouth

junior nationals at Bartle Hall this July. Her mom Michele and proud grandmom Betty O'Kell cheered her on. Parris has been involved with gymnastics for over 10 years... Congrats to Fritz Hutchison (Judy & Pete) who took Best Drummer honors at Rockhurst High's annual Battle of the Bands fundraising competition. Fritz's band Thundermuffin also won top honors...

Cheers to Don Dagenais for his Community Service Award from the Daughters of the American Revolution. The award recognizes his outstanding service in support of Kansas City music and performing arts organizations. Don and wife Patricia have other reasons to cheer. Their daughter Lydia is marrying Tamir Brouwer this

(continued on page 7)



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Armour Fields Garden Group Gets Started



April 26 was the kick off date for the new Armour Fields Homes Association Garden Group. A meeting was held on Romanelli Island, where attendees heard master gardener Kathy Hoggard speak on topics ranging from the best kind of soil for a hydrangea to successfully planting a tree.

Neighbors categorized themselves from "is this a weed?" to the avid gardeners. No questions went unanswered!

Throughout the summer and fall, the Garden Group will meet once a month (the 4th Saturday in the month) to tour yards and talk about common gardening interests.

Do you have a yard that you'd love some new ideas on? Sign up to have your yard toured by contacting Joy Crimmins. Her contact information appears on the back page of this newsletter.

Fountain Donors: Contact Us!

The Armour Fields Homes Association would like to very much thank all of our neighbors who generously donated to the renovations at the Romanelli Fountain Island at 69th and Ward Parkway.

Your homes association board is in the process of finalizing donor plaques to be placed on the island. So that our list is complete, could you please send your name to Christin DiMartino, our Fountains chair, so she can double-check it against our list of donors?

We wouldn't want to miss you! Thank you. Her contact information is on the back page of this newsletter.

Block Captain Report

by Gail Clair

Armour Fields block captains will be having a short meeting just prior to the Armour Fields annual meeting and picnic on Sunday, June 8.

Block Captains, please arrive early at the Romanelli Fountain at 2:00 p.m. for this meeting.

You will be able to meet Joy Crimmins, who will be taking over the duties of the Block Captain chair in June. Please bring your ideas to improve the effectiveness of the Block Captain's role in the neighborhood.

If you know of a block that does not have a Block Captain please encourage someone on that block to get involved by contacting me (contact information appears on the last page of this newsletter) or by attending the June meeting.

Our block captains provide an important point of contact between the homes association and residents of each block, and also help disseminate information about safety and security, as well as watch out for unusual activity. Thank you!

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Our Dear Crystal Fountains

(Editor's Note: Residents of Armour Fields may have observed that the opening of our fountains, particularly the new one in the Romanelli Fountain Island, was slightly different from other fountains around the city. Moreover, you may have noticed that the fountain did not have a cover on it this winter.

Why the differences? The following article by Christin DiMartino, our Fountains chair, explains what is "different" about our fountains.)

by Christin DiMartino

As I welcome spring, I also welcome - I think - the birth of a new fountain season in Armour Fields. As you are all aware, Armour Fields is home to two, per my recent renaming, "crystal fountains": Romanelli Fountain and our original statuary at 67th and Wornall.

As I enter my second season of "fountain duty" on our Board, I now feel well suited to mark our fountains "crystal."

Through patience, frustration, excitement and many a lesson via Paul Benson, Conservator of Objects at the Nelson Atkins Gallery of Art, I am learning the intricacies, delicacy, golden detail, non-dishwasher friendly attributes of our crystal fountains, especially that which we installed one year ago this April.

Like many a newlywed, I am yet to use my sparkling Waterford, with all its glamour and luster, for those exact traits our dear, crystal fountains possess. Unlike my goblets, however, your Board is working near daily to ensure perfect handling, care and use of our Romanelli masterpiece.

Paul Benson waxes Romanelli's bronze statuary twice annually. Therefore, we open and close this crystal piece per "mother nature" as waxing requires 24 hours of 70-degree weather. So the reason why our crystal is not "out" on the city's traditional Fountain Day in April is simple: it's hard to find 70-degree weather in Kansas City early April!

The stone fountain at 67th and Wornall is handled with "white-gloves" by the expert Mr. Benson on a repeat basis. Likewise, your board scrubs, sprays and otherwise "hand washes" our neighborhood crystal on many a Saturday.

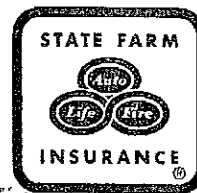
Like Mr. Benson, local companies Wirken Electric and Benjamin Franklin Plumbing are visiting our fountains, often on a weekly basis, to perfect, manage and treat our dear crystal.

Like the details of my unused crystal, I learn more and more about our fountains each season. For example, now we do not cover our fountains in the winter. Why? Because the winter coat of wax protects our bronze fountain, and our stone fountain is consolidated to slow erosion. No covers beats a bad cover, which is what we have sometimes had in the past. You will see custom blankets on our small statutory next winter.

So...on behalf of myself and our board, hang in there with us, we're figuring it out. Thank you for your understanding!

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Safe and Secure



by Brian Hand
Crime Prevention

Spring is finally here! Neighbors are all out an about; walking on the trail, working in the yard, and all the things we have been waiting on good weather to do!

It is also the time of year that thieves like to get out and about, too. Our security patrol is also out. With vehicle and bicycle patrols they are constantly changing to meet the needs of our neighborhood.

Things have been relatively quiet in our neighborhood, and we can help keep it that way by making ourselves harder targets. Most criminals want to do things the easy way so they watch for weaknesses in your security and exploit them. The more difficult we make it on would be criminals the less likely they are to target us. Here are a few tips you can use to make yourself a harder target.

◆ Say Hello! When people walk by while you are outside, make eye contact and greet them. By doing this

you let folks know that you are watching and are aware of what is going on around you. This approach can help keep criminals away and help you meet your neighbors.

◆ Check your lighting. Does the outside of your house have dark areas? If so, light them up. Sneaking around in the night is hard when everyone can see you. If you are looking to save energy you can use motion detectors to work only when you need them. You can also use compact fluorescent flood lights, just make sure they will work with your motion detectors and/or light sensors.

◆ Trim the hedges. High hedges and privacy fences provide privacy to criminals too, you will have to weigh the cost and benefits of having those in place. When feasible, keep your hedges trimmed to prevent their usage as concealment for a prowler.

◆ Out of sight? Most thefts and burglaries occur because someone saw something they wanted. You should position televisions and large ticket items out of sight in your home when you can and close your blinds at night. Don't forget your car either. Keeping your car in the garage is best, but if you can't, make sure that you remove the valuables like I-pods, GPS, purses and cell phones.

These few simple things can go a long way to protecting you, your family and your home.

I want to also take this opportunity thank all of the residents who have called me about our new security contractor, Chesley Brown. The overall feedback has been very positive, and helps us to continually evaluate our neighborhood needs. Please continue to let us know what you think!

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The Armour Fields Homes Association is seeking a neighbor interested in web site development to help updated and maintain our homes association web site (www.armourfieldsonline.com).

If you have an interest, please contact our president, Dave Jensen, whose contact information is on the last page of this newsletter. Thank you!



The Newsy Neighbor

by Jan Flanagan

(continued from page 3)

summer. Tamir hails from the Netherlands and the new-lyweds will reside in Philadelphia after a ceremony here at Longview Farm. Among those performing bridesmaid duties will be younger sister Alison...

Also wedding this summer are Natalie Foster (Mitzi & Mark) and John Rellihan. A recent grad of the UMKC School of Nursing, Natalie is employed at St. Luke's South. Best wishes on all the upcoming nuptials...

Looking for the perfect gift? Or cleaning supplies? Or almost anything else for house or garden? Fifi Wiedeman hopes you will "think local" first. The New Dime Store proprietor says that if we want the Dime Store and others like it to stay in business, we need to shop there rather than the box stores. Shop now rather than moan the loss of the local shops when it is too late...

Grade school is winding down for many of our younger neighbors. Heading to Rockhurst High are Visi-

tation boys John Heiman (Cathy & John), Peter O'Neill (Nancy & Terry) and George Lester (Fran & Matt.) St. Paul's Matt Gude (Thea & Bob) will join them there. The dads of the group, also RHS grads, are looking forward to roaming the hallways and playing fields once again! St. Peter's grad Taylor Migliazzo (Shelley & Paul) will attend St. Teresa's Academy in the fall...

Em's Spotlight is beginning its 5th season and once again will need to get together about 350 costumes in six weeks. The non-profit organization provides free dance instruction in honor of Vicki & Paul Silverman's late daughter who loved dance. If you are interested in helping with any aspect of the organization, contact Vicki at vmilver988@aol.com...

Next time is the annual column on high school and college grads, so get your information in soon! Send grad information along with news of new jobs, travel, weddings, babies, and accomplishments of all sorts to Jan, the Newsy Neighbor jflans@msn.com and BE SURE to write Newsy Neighbor in the subject heading. Or call Jan 816.333.8947.

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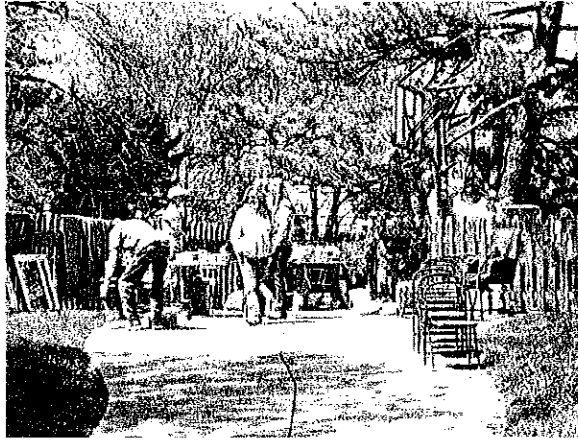
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Early May saw garage sale shoppers galore in our neighborhood for the annual Armour Fields Homes Association Garage Sale, like these bargain hunters on West 67th Street. We hope that you found, or sold, your own bargains that day!

Do It Your Selfers, Unite!

Are you a Do It Yourself'er or maybe you want to be? Maybe you have questions about how to repair or upgrade your old character filled home?

Whether you are a weekend warrior or a skilled craftsman the DIY Home Repair Club is for you. The goal is to share information on suppliers of hard to find home restoration parts, knowledge of lessons learned, tips and tricks, and help refer good contractors that can work with older homes for the more difficult work.

Our first meeting will be Saturday, June 21, at 10:00 a.m. We will meet at Foundation Architectural Reclamation located in the Historic West Bottoms at 1221 Union Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri, where our speaker will discuss historic preservation. Please contact Brian Hand at thehand@everestkc.net if you have any questions.

Help the City Sewer Project

The City of Kansas City has been working to repair sewers and develop plans to control and manage wet weather flows in the future, but it needs your help!

► First, have you disconnected your downspouts? If your downspouts are sunk directly into the ground, in heavy rains the water flows from these gutters can overwhelm the City sewer system. The solution is simple: pull out those pipes leading underground and place a concrete catchflow beneath the outlet which directs the water flow into your yard or onto a driveway instead of underground. This will keep your personal water flow out of the City sewers.

► Second, you can install rain barrels to catch storm water runoff from your roof. That way you can collect it and use it for watering on dry days. You can save money and keep the extra water from flowing into already overloaded storm sewers.

► Third, please don't dump oil, paint, lawn chemicals and other such toxic liquids into the storm drains. Instead, take them to the City's hazardous waste disposal center at 4707 Deramus (call 784-2080).

► Fifth, apply fertilizer and pesticides sparingly to your lawn. Also, try to avoid using them before a heavy rain, because they can easily get washed into our local waterways and increase pollution.

► Finally, flush or throw away pet waste. It is not fertilizer, and can wash into waterways during heavy rains when untreated.



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Tips to Protect Your Home

Consider these safety tips from local police departments for residents living in South Kansas City neighborhoods:

- Recently, individuals posing as alarm system salesmen have been going door to door trying to sell alarm systems. They are saying they work with Honeywell. Actually, Honeywell does commercial properties only, and this is a scam.

Under no circumstances let these "salespeople" into your home. If possible, have your door chain in place, let the salespeople know you are not interested and contact Security at (816) 753-2945. One of their goals is to check and see if anyone is home in order to attempt access. With added pressure from Security as well as police, we can help prevent

these people from hanging around the neighborhood.

- Increasingly, thieves are not even burglarizing homes, but are reaping their loot from the driveway. A car of organized thieves can cruise down a residential street, hit six or seven cars in the block, and speed away in less than five minutes with a cache of cell phones, laptop computers, iPods, hand-held video games, personal DVD players and other electronic equipment that we often leave in our cars.

If your car is in the driveway, the best advice is to take the electronic gadgets inside, or at least put them out of sight, and lock the car.

- Those recycle bins in front of our houses on Wednesday night and Thursday morning are a mother

lode for identity thieves. On any given street, those bins are chock full of bank statements, brokerage account statements, credit card bills, a nearly endless supply of new credit card offers, all with clearly stamped account numbers.

The best advice is to invest in a shredder and shred everything. Although KC Recycles, our city recycling program, doesn't take shredded paper, selected shredding of just the few key pages, and the recycling of the rest, can protect you against identity theft while still fulfilling our goal of recycling as much as we can.

- Finally, keep the garage door closed, especially when you are in the back yard or not at home! Over fifty percent of burglars enter a house through the garage.

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