



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

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www.armourfields.org

August 2006

Church Demolition Narrowly Averted, For Now

The church home of Sixth Church of Christ, Scientist at 66th and Wornall recently avoided the wrecking ball, thanks to quick action by the Armour Fields Homes Association, local media reporters and members of the congregation.

Early in August the board of directors of the church, faced with mounting bills and a shrinking congregation base, made a decision to raze the church and build a small chapel and parking lot in its place.

Although the decision was characterized as irrevocable, quick action by residents and directors of the Armour Fields Homes Association and Bev Chapman from KMBC-TV, coupled with pressure from within the congregation, led to a reversal of the decision.

The church structure will not be demolished, at least for the time being.

Details of the events appear in the President's Column on the second page of this issue. The church still remains an important issue for the community, however, and a long term solution needs to be found.



You are invited
to the annual

ARMOUR FIELDS HOMES ASSOCIATION HALLOWEEN PARTY

Saturday, October 28
Romanelli Fountain
Island

*(yes, we think it will be
done by then. If not, we'll
let you know of an
alternative location)*
3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

All children and adults are invited to the Armour Fields Halloween Party. This is a fun event for the whole family...and be sure to come in costume, whether young or young at heart!

We will have pumpkin decorating, costume honors, food, games, and lots of other fun things to do!

The Armour Fields Homes Association provides all treats and games.

President's Column

Good News (for Now) Regarding a Historic Church

by Doug Jackson
President

Few of us were aware that a potentially sad development was averted recently.

The Sixth Church of Christ, Scientist is an historic church located in our neighborhood near the Southwest Secondary School. Most of us can see its soaring spire as we walk on the Trolley Track Trail.

On Sunday August 6th, I received a call from Lucinda Rice-Petrie with news of a decision that was made by the board of the church to raze the building and put up a smaller facility and parking lot.

The purported reason for the decision centered on the cost of running the facility with revenues from a declining congregation size. The decision was (at the time) understood to be final. Efforts were made to contact the church board about the decision, but no calls were returned.

I must confess that when Ms. Rice-Petrie delivered the news, I was in total shock. It seemed inconceivable that a landmark with such beauty would be subject to this fate. Frankly, I figured there must have been a miscommunication.

I was wrong.

Ms. Rice-Petrie worked with Jeff Wilson from Armour Hills to get the word out as quickly as they could. In

addition to contacting me, they solicited the help of Mel Solomon from Armour Hills as well as Bev Chapman from KMBC-TV. With mounting pressure apparently from within the congregation as well as from the community, the board reconsidered this decision and has for the moment aborted its plans to demolish the structure.

Most of us would agree that losing this beautiful piece of architecture would destroy some of our unique community charm, and we would never be able to replace the quality of work that is a part of this church.

However, we cannot possibly afford to wipe our collective brow and feel comfortable that this issue is behind us. It is not. The core problem is that the congregation cannot maintain the facility, and that has not changed.

Mr. Wilson and Ms. Petrie were able to avert this action for now. But we cannot believe that we will be so lucky next time without some proactive effort to save this building.



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The building is not protected for its historical significance, so there is no process to go through before demolition. The church board would only need to apply for and get a demolition permit in order to tear down the church.

This effort, like the Southwest Secondary School which is the church's northern neighbor, requires innovative thinking from our community so that we keep the things which are important to us. We have made great strides at Southwest, and we need the same type of thinking as we figure the best ways to ensure this historic structure stays in our community.

The church claims that attention was given to other ideas, but in the end there was no other option. I respectfully disagree — not because they have not tried, but that they have not opened their arms to the community and worked collectively with us to preserve this piece of history.

If you have any ideas or want to help brainstorm innovative ways to permanently keep this beautiful structure, please email me at djackson@2md.com or call my cell phone (816) 547-4688. Generations that follow ours will thank you for your efforts.

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: \$12 per issue or \$40 for four issues. Quarter page ads: \$55 per issue or \$180 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

The other day as I crunched across our heat-seared landscape it occurred to me that in just a few short months I could be crunching across snow-packed sidewalks or the dreaded ice. From one extreme to the other in our dear neighborhood...

I imagine parents packing up offspring for their first trips to college are wondering where the time has gone. Parents like Rierson Clark, whose daughter Annie graduated from Notre Dame de Sion High School and will venture into Jayhawk territory in Lawrence. Or Mike & Barbara Levitt whose Sion grad Emily heads to Washington University in St. Louis...

Also heading out after her Sion graduation is Alison Dagenais, daughter of Don & Pat. She will be at Grinnell College in Iowa, her parents' alma mater. Joining her there will be Saint Teresa's Academy grad Erica Hougland (Karl & Marlys)...

Other STA women are heading in varied directions. Katie Adair (Bill &

Mary) is packing appropriate gear for her new Texas abode at TCU, while Abigail Sosinski (David & Teresa) needs warmer items for the long, cold winters at Marquette University in Milwaukee...

Bridget Aylward (Jim & Patty) represents the last of the seven Aylward siblings to graduate from high school. She'll be striking out on her own at Northwest Missouri State University, leaving the family home at 67th & Pennsylvania awfully quiet after many years of cheerful chaos...

Graduating from Pembroke High, Emily Max (Brad & Cheryl) is off to Indiana University. Truman State in Kirksville, Missouri is the destination for Tom Hogan (Jim & Mary Kay), a recent Bishop Miege grad. Fellow Miege grad Sean Svadlenak plans to study Film and Media Arts at Temple University...

The Rockhurst High lads are staying in state. Chris Gard (Keith & Jane) is living the fraternity life at Mizzou, while Alex Jantsch (Michael & Beth) and Daniel Kovac (Stephen & Elaine) are heading to Saint Louis University. Finishing out his college career this year was John Webster Taylor (John & Janet) who graduated from Creighton University in Omaha with majors in Physics and Latin. He received a special Latin Arete Award, given for excellence in the field...

Kevin McManus graduated from law school at Saint Louis University in May. He is now an associate with Stinson Morrison Hecker. Congrats to one and all!...

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!

- Michael & Amanda Sonnenberg
614 West 67th St.
- Craig & Joanne Scurato
812 West 67th Terrace
- Charles and Jacqueline Richart
436 West 66th Street
- James Duff
1019 West 66th Terrace
- Timothy Colley & Timothy Wilson
400 West 69th St.
- Jeffrey & Julie Reid
620 West 69th St.
- Ambra & Khara Cosentino
811 West 69th Terrace
- James Henderson
1015 West 69th Terrace
- John Houlehan
1019 West 69th Terrace
- Darren & Harmony Fulcher
6920 Edgevale
- Kurt Bush
6934 Wornall Road
- Matthew & Kelly Weight
409 West 70th St.
- Andrew Schulkin & Alyse Freilich
611 West 70th St.
- Robert J. & Sara C. Smith
640 West 70th St.
- Roy & Florence Tirakayos
1002 West 70th St.
- Benoit Blondeau
1018 West 70th St.

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Three Armour Fields Bench Plaques are Sold

Three of the four plaques for the new benches at the Romanelli Fountain island at 69th and Wornall Road have been sold! Please drop by and look at the three benches sold.

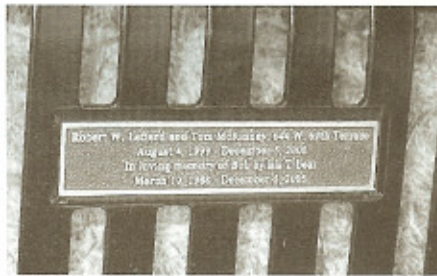
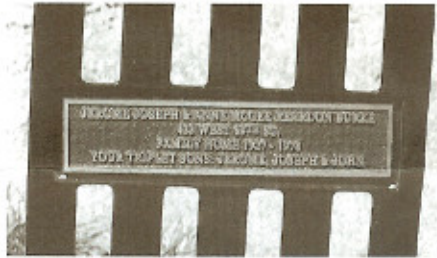
The first was sold to the Miles-Kaufman-Langworth Goldfarb family (an extensive article appeared in the February 2006 *Armour Star*). A second plaque was purchased by Jerome, Joseph and John Burke to honor their parents Jerome Joseph and Anne McGee Reardon Burke.

A third plaque honors Robert W. Lefferd and Tom McKinney "in loving memory of Bob by his T-Bear."

This leaves one plaque still remaining. Remember that the plaque sale project is part of the fund raising to raise money to replace the central statue at the Romanelli Fountain island.

If you are interested in reserving the final plaque, please call John Murphy (361-5222) or Brian Greenwald (822-0232).

Thank you!



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Block Captain News

by Gail Clair

Co-Chair, Block Captains

Kathleen Dorris and I hope all of you had an enjoyable summer. It is hard to believe it is time for school to start.

We are planning to have a Block Captain's meeting on **October 3**, at a location to be announced.

Block Captains should watch for more information via e-mail. We will call those of you who do not have e-mail and let you know the location.

As you may know, several blocks in the neighborhood do not have block captains at this point. We will be making some contacts on those blocks to encourage participation. If you know of a person who might be interested please let one of us know and we will touch base with them.

Please forward any relevant agenda items to us prior to the October meeting date and we will add to the agenda and assist with background work if needed.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you. Thanks for all you do for the neighborhood!

Would you like to volunteer to help us with the Halloween Party (see page 1)? We need neighbors to help us decorate, set up the party, clean up afterwards, and staff the game booths, craft tables, the refreshment area, etc.

If you are willing to give us a little of your time, please call our special events chair, Duane Thrutchley, at 361-7596, or e-mail him at dthrutchley@everestkc.com. Thanks so much!

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Southwest High Facility Needs Your Ideas!

by Doug Jackson

The Southwest High School facility was open to tours by members of the homes association at the annual meeting held on the school grounds in June. The tours were provided by Melissa Jackson.

For those who did not see this grand facility, it truly seems bigger on the inside than it appears from the outside. The building has two gymnasiums, a pool, many "state of the art" science labs, a planetarium with \$500,000 worth of optics and a beautiful art deco auditorium. All of this, plus four floors of classrooms.

The only request of those touring the facility is to provide innovative ideas. As some of us have seen, the Kansas City Missouri School District is going through many changes of late, and reaching out to the community has been rekindled.

The Southwest Community Alliance (<http://www.southwestcommunityalliance.org>) worked with the School District and the Kauffman Foundation to write a special grant for use of the facility. Kauffman has gone on record to provide up to \$1.5 million for math and science curriculum, much of it intended for use at Southwest. These steps help us toward our goal which is to improve the quality of life that we all enjoy through better public education in the Southwest area of our city.

A building supporting math and science education may provide a focal point for community involvement. For example, the school could be used for author presentations (such as those sponsored by Rainy Day Books), a public library, a computer center, health screenings,

(continued on page 8)

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The Newsy Neighbor

by Jan Flanagan

(continued from page 3)

Melodie Powell had a busy election day. She is chair of the Kansas City Board of Election Commissioners. Educating workers and voters alike on the new voting machines proved to be a challenge, but all should be well come November...

Nothing like a cocktail tasting party to bring out the crowds. Seen voting for favorite summery concoctions at the Carriage Club were Mark & Lisa Ebbitts and Mark & Mitzi Foster. The winning drink was served poolside all summer...

Even 100-plus degree heat couldn't stop the fun for Fifi Wiedeman's 50th birthday. Their corner lot welcomed guests with large colorful banners and giant balloons.

Family and friends helped Fifi celebrate under a big tent, with fabulous food, music and fun...

Neighbors in the news – Seems Jim Lynch has the same name as someone on the terrorist watch list that airlines consult. *The Kansas City Star* reported that the former Chief has to allow extra time for each trip so the name confusion can be checked out before he is allowed to board. Apparently once you are on the list, there is no way off...

Also making news in the *Star* is Nancy Bone. She is an organizer for a group which sponsors discussions on topics controversial within the Catholic Church, such as allowing women priests. A few weeks later the *Star*

Magazine featured her and her design partner and their firm...

Tom Wiedeman just returned from a service trip to Ghana, Africa. He's now back at school, ready to begin his junior year at Boston College...

The port-a-potty on the front lawn might not be John & Kelly Murphy's choice of lawn ornaments, but at least it is temporary. And it will all be worth it once the spiffy new curbs and sidewalks are completed on the 400 block of 68th Street...

Congratulations to new Eagle Scout Sean Svadlenak of Romany Road. He earned his rank in Troop 98, out of St. Ann's in Prairie Village. And Eagle Scout Kevin Flanagan of Troop 84 at Country Club Christian Church recently received his 8th Eagle palm, a troop record. His brothers Bryan and Sean had thought they were unbeatable at 6 palms each...

(continued on page 8)

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Southwest High

(continued from page 6)

Community classes, craft shows around holiday times, as a performing arts center for a community orchestra or chorus, and for childrens' performances.

One idea which has been suggested is to offer a "Southwest Community Membership" for an annual fee, which would provide influx of monies. This membership would give discounted entry into classes and activities.

The building could also be used for political and community forums, for Masters swim team practices in the pool, for theater or music performances managed by the UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance, for plant sales, for gar-

The Newsy Neighbor

(continued from page 7)

Jim & Julie McManus had a busy summer preparing for their daughter Jane's July wedding to Matt Kolakowski. Jane is a secondary English teacher in the Shawnee Mission School District. Matt is employed by DST. Best wishes to them!...

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 in the subject line.

den club meetings, or for community greenhouse programs classes.

If you have additional ideas, please let us know. Contact Melissa Jackson at melissa@2md.com.

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Tips for Detecting Suspicious Activity

We have been very fortunate to have enjoyed a low crime in Armour Fields for the last few years, but to preserve this good situation we must all be diligent.

The neighbors themselves are the best eyes and ears to detect suspicious activity. Please be alert to these possible warning signs:

- ◆ people going door to door, particularly if they go to the rear of the house.
- ◆ people waiting or loitering in front of a house.
- ◆ people hanging around an unoccupied house.
- ◆ persons carrying unwrapped property or at an unusual hour.
- ◆ lots of traffic to and from a certain house.

- ◆ unusual noises such as people screaming.

- ◆ persons loitering around cars and getting into and out of them, especially on streets or in parking lots.

- ◆ persons loitering around parks or schools.

- ◆ the same car driving through a street several times.

- ◆ unusual items in vehicles, such as television sets, stereos, guns or auto parts.

- ◆ slow moving vehicles, without lights, at night.

- ◆ abandoned vehicle parked on the street.

- ◆ open or broken doors or windows at houses, particularly vacant ones.

- ◆ sounds of broken glass.

- ◆ objects being thrown from a vehicle.

What are you to do if you detect this kind of activity? Call the crime information coordinator at the Kansas City Police Department (Central Patrol Division, 759-6328) and report what you saw, when, where, and give descriptions of any suspicious persons or cars.

If it is an emergency, call 911.

Remember that the neighborhood you are protecting is your own!

Armour Fields will soon have a vacancy in its Special Events position. Would you like to help plan our neighborhood parties and events? Contact Doug Jackson, the President (see last page) soon. Thanks!

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Armour Fields Annual Meeting

The Armour Fields Homes Association annual meeting on June 25 afforded an opportunity for John Murphy and Brian Greenwald to explaining the parks and fountain renovations going on in the neighborhood.

Residents attending the meeting

also had an opportunity to tour the Southwest High School building with Melissa Jackson, who has been active in working with the school.

Barbeque and good visits were enjoyed by all. Be sure to come again next year!

Armour Fields Homes Association Board of Directors

President	Doug Jackson	456 West 68th St. djackson@2md.com	547-4688
Vice President/ Parks & Islands	Dave & Vonda Jensen	1030 West 68th Terr. vathemanor@aol.com	444-3323
Treasurer	John Christiansen	656 Romany jchris7171@aol.com	333-1188
Secretary	Rex Davis	451 West 67th Terr. rdavis@ibtinc.com	268-4892
Special Events	Duane Thrutchley	446 West 69th St. dthrutchley@everestkc.net	361-7596
Crime Prevention	Brian Hand	416 West Dartmouth thehand@everestkc.com	444-1185
City Liaison	John Murphy	449 West 68th St. kellyjohnmurphy@aol.com	361-5222
Block Captains	Gail Clair	6522 Pennsylvania gclair@kcr.r.com	444-8425
	Kathleen Dorris	445 W. Dartmouth mdorris@kc.rr.com	363-3563
Fountains	Brian/Lisa Greenwald	704 West Gregory bgreenwald@kc.rr.com lgreenwald@kc.rr.com	822-0232



John Murphy explaining the Romanelli Fountain reconstruction to an Armour Fields resident.

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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