



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
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June 2007

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You are invited to the
**Annual Meeting
and Picnic
of the
Armour Fields
Homes Association**

**Sunday, June 24
3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

*at our newly renovated
Romanelli Fountain
Island at 69th and
Wornall Road*

Join us as we dedicate the new Romanelli Island renovations including our new fountain!

This is your chance to meet your board of directors and find out what is happening in the neighborhood and about our plans for future area improvements.

Enjoy an **Italian dinner** in honor of the original sculptor of our fountain, Roman Romanelli. Bring your family and your appetite.

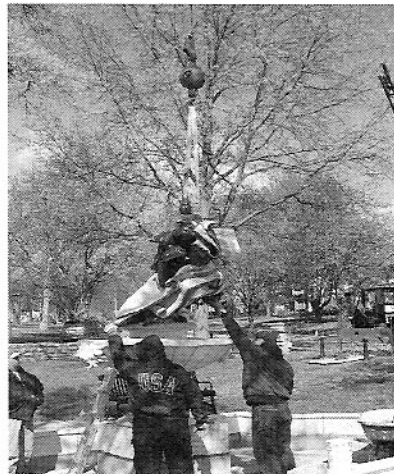
We will have a magician, a moonwalk, and (hopefully) a fire truck for the kids!

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

Romanelli Fountain Island is Complete!

The new Romanelli Fountain has been installed and is running at the Romanelli Fountain island at 69th and Wornall Road, marking the completion of almost two years of work in renovating the popular neighborhood island. Join us at the Annual Meeting on June 24 (invitation at left) for the "official" turning on of the waters (although a sneak preview is available daily). Congratulations are in order to all who worked so hard to realize this dream!

Installation of Redone Romanelli Statue



April 6 was a landmark day for the Armour Fields neighborhood, as the newly recast Romanelli fountain statue was lowered into place on its pedestal at 69th and Wornall. Workers are shown at left installing the new statue on its pedestal. At right is a close-up of the new statue. The old statue was so worn that many neighbors are finding out for the first time that the statue portrays three cupids wrestling with a goose. The old fountain statuary is still there - it has been relocated to the southwest corner of the Romanelli Fountain island, so the next time you happen by you can compare the two. See page 7 for more photos and details of how the statue was recreated.

President's Column

by Dave Jensen
President

Spring has finally sprung! The lawns and gardens of the neighborhood are coming into full bloom and are looking great. The Romanelli Island fountain is up and running and the other islands are just begging to be enjoyed by all.

The Annual meeting/picnic will be held at the Romanelli Island (70th/Wornall) on June 24th. At that time the fountain will be re-dedicated and officially turned on. Adults and kids of all ages are urged to come by and have some lunch and a cold beverage, or two, and rub shoulders with some city dignitaries.

Now that the Romanelli Island has been updated, it is time to begin discussions as to future improvement projects for the neighborhood. I feel it is extremely important to systematically update each island, while maintaining the integrity of the neighbor-

hood. An open forum will be available at the annual meeting and all are invited to participate.

The repaving of the streets, and sidewalk work are also nearing completion. The heavy machinery and orange cones will be sorely missed. Just a reminder to try to keep the street gutters clear of leaves and "pokey balls", sweetgum balls, as they clog the storm drains and cause water back up with all the spring showers we are having.



Dave Jensen

breeding ground for mosquitoes, the city engineers stress that standing water from clogged storm-water sewers are the number one cause of street decomposition.

We still are actively searching for someone to head up the special events committee for the neighborhood. We also need someone for our city liaison position. If anyone is interested in becoming active on the board, please contact myself or any of the other board and committee members.

In addition to providing a perfect

See you at the picnic!



There was much to cheer about at the Brookside St. Patrick's Parade in March, but not an Armour Fields float, for there wasn't one because we still lack a Special Events chair. If you are interested in helping out with future Armour Fields special events, please call our president Dave Jensen (phone number on page 10).

Advertising

The Armour Star reaches about 850 homes in our neighborhood each issue, and accepts advertising at the following rates: An ad the size of the ad to the right is \$30 per issue or \$105 for four issues. Quarter page ads (size of ads on page 4) are \$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.

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The Newsy Neighbor



by Jan Flanagan

Droughts, floods, unusually warm late winter, devastatingly cold early spring... we've seen it all. And yet, the azaleas are in bloom, the hostas have rebounded and in most cases Mother Nature seems to be healing her own. It's great to be in the neighborhood!...

The cold Easter weather didn't deter the annual egg hunt for the Sachs and Elder families. Watching young Phinney Sachs and Carter Elder reminded all of how time has flown since their now-teenagers were the little ones hunting eggs. Also getting into the fun were the Tappan family, McCanns, McGannons, Shackelfords, Triggs, Sonnenbergs and Newells. A great tradition!...

And speaking of traditions - have you been to the New Dime Store? Wow, Fifi! Lovingly restored, remodeled and rejuvenated by Fifi Wiedeman, the new/old Brookside shop is bright, clean and filled with colorful merchandise. Be sure to make all of Fifi's hard work worthwhile and stop in. She's already hosted a fundraiser for the Upper Room and CCVI so go visit those creaky old refinished floors!...

Kudos to Taylor Migliazzo for her recent work on the Leukemia Society benefit. The 7th grader was one of those in charge of the Tiffany jewelry for the evening. Not a bad gig! Taylor's parents are Shelly & Paul...

Further congrats to Luke Betterman. The Rockhurst High senior received the Jesuit Secondary Education Award, one of the top honors at Rockhurst, at a recent assembly. His parents are Kathleen & Jim...

Still more congrats due to a young

neighbor: Erin Hogan (Mary Kay & Jim are her parents) qualified for state and national competition in forensics this year at Miego. She will also be participating in Girls State this summer and can be found working at the New Dime Store!...

Dixie Pollard is the woman of the moment. She serves as honorary chair for the 2nd Friends of KCMO Mounted Patrol on May 20. The organization helps raise funds for the mounted horse patrol...

Devout first Communicants this year included Ross Elder and Helen Wheatley-McGannon. Best wishes to them...

The annual "Back to School" high school graduates column is coming up! Be sure your child/neighbor is included by sending their info in soon: high school/college/intended major/awards - any and all! In addition to the college-bound, we have a college grad. Logan Keech graduated from Colorado State University with a degree in psychology and a minor in criminology. His proud parents are Camilla & John. Hallie Elder (Jill & Todd) will attend Notre Dame de Sion this fall after finishing up at Visitation grade school. Also in the academic vein, Jim Neihart is principal of the Accelerated School of Overland Park (formerly the Evans Learning Center on Gregory). His wife Carlene will present her piano students in a recital May 26...

Reluctant goodbyes to Lisa & Brian Greenwald, moving to Leawood after six years of service on our Homes Association Board. Christine and Chuck DiMartino will be taking over their duties as Fountain Committee

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!

Howard Barewin & Jennifer Neill
1027 West 67th Terrace
Patrick & Carey Linson
432 West 68th Street
Patrick & Shannon O'Boyle
428 West 69th Street
Steve Cloutier & Nancy Stornello
429 West 69th Street
Nicholas Palmer & P. Knopke
615 West 69th Terrace
Susan Wicks & John Wilcox
1016 Arno Road
David Becker & Vera Scharrer
609 Romany Road
Tim & Kristi Fuemmeler
1003 Romany Road
Patrick & Nicole Wosje
1019 West 70th Street
Sean & Susan Smith
611 Romany Road
Rick Shearer & Franki Parsons
412 West 70th Terrace
William E. Shull, III
416 West 70th Terrace
Patrick & Natalie Houtakker
1008 West 70th Terrace
David & Lindy Pierre
1011 West 70th Terrace

Chairs. Goodbye and good luck! Come back to visit!...

Traveling further away on a medical delegation mission to El Salvador

(continued on page 9)

Easter Egg Hunt Proves Hit With Youngsters

Armour Fields' annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 7 was a little chilly, but dozens of young hunters and their parents were undeterred as the island at 69th and Ward Parkway was filled with enthusiasm.

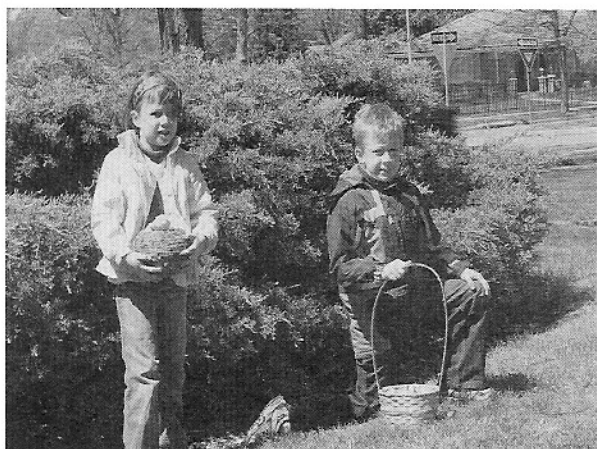


Freund for running our Easter Egg Hunt this year, and to the many volunteers who assisted. Photographs by Ron Brower.



Shown above and at right are two young ladies exhibiting their finds. They were among the dozens of youngsters participating. Our thanks to Heather

Two youngsters found treasures hidden near the bushes on the island (below).



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Planetarium Reopens

The planetarium at Southwest High School, closed for nine years, has now reopened under the direction of its original director Bob Riddle. Riddle, an experienced planetarium director, is not only teaching Kansas City School District students, but he is also inviting the community to participate.

To schedule a visit to the planetarium, call 871-4915 or e-mail him at riddle@kcmsd.net.

Safe and Secure



by Brian Hand
Crime Prevention

I would ask the question “who can believe that we are already on the doorstep of summer?” but I won’t. With all the outdoor work and “honey-dos” it is certainly apparent to me, and judging by all the activity in the neighborhood I am not the only one who believes it.

For me, summer brings the promise of many days working outside to beautify my home and yard, and keep my bride happy. It also brings biting and stinging insects, poison ivy and oak, time on the ladder, the burning sun and so many other summertime hazards.

We can protect ourselves, and our families from these hazards with a little bit of commonsense. Here are a few things to keep in mind before embarking on your journey to the living space outside of your home.

Don’t Bug Me – Use a high quality insect repellent when spending time outdoors. Choose one with Deet for best results or use Avon Skin-So-Soft. Both work very well.

Honey, What Kind Of Vine Is This? – Know how to identify the various types of poison plants when they pop up in your flower bed. You can easily find out what you are looking at on most internet search engines.

Gutters? What Gut-

ters? – Climbing on ladders is a necessary part of home maintenance; proper care should be taken when using ladders. Check for damage before using your ladder; those in poor condition can cause a lot of pain. Lean extension ladders against the house with a 1:4 pitch, meaning 1 foot of run for every 4 feet of rise. Always use ladders on a stable level surface.

Lobster Anyone? – Unless you want to look like the entrée at McCormick & Schmick’s, you might consider a high SPF sunscreen. Thirty is a good number to start at.

There are many more things to think about, but these are a good start. Check out these websites for more info:

<http://www.aap.org/advocacy/releases/summertips.htm>

<http://www.wranc.amedd.army.mil/safety/safetip.htm>

Protect yourself and your family during the summer and you can stay safe and secure.

How sharp are your eyes? We’ll find at the Armour Fields annual meeting (see page 1). On our new fountain sculpture, there is an anomaly. See if you can find it! If you win the contest, you will receive a gift certificate from a local merchant!

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How the Romanelli Fountain Statue Was Resurrected

Bringing the old, damaged fountain statue at the Romanelli Island back to life in a new reincarnation involved detective work and artistic creativity, among other skills.

The Armour Fields Homes Association benefited from the help of Paul Benson, a conservator at the Nelson Atkins Museum of Art, and the services of two sculptors, Maretta Kennedy and Robert Ojeda, in doing the job.

"Maretta was originally hired to do the project," Ojeda told *The Armour Star* in an interview, "but she brought me on because she was very busy at the time. She specializes in equine statues whereas I do more work with the human form."

The Romanelli sculpture studios in Venice, Italy, which created the original stone statue in the 1920's, had no photographs or patterns for the piece. "It was carved of stone, so it was a one-of-a-kind original purchased by J. C. Nichols," said Ojeda. Therefore, it had to be recreated.

Ojeda spent a day at the Western Resource Archives on the UMKC campus, home of the J.C. Nichols Company historical records, searching for pictures of the original fountain taken in the early days before weather damage. He found only two, both taken from the front, and from a distance.

"I had to resculpt the statue in clay, getting a feel for the pattern of the statue and recreating the back of the statue as best I could, based on the pattern from the front," he said. "I used calipers to take measurements from the original and transfer them to the clay, to make sure the proportions were exactly right from all angles."

"It took a lot of time to get the details precise," Ojeda said. "Fortunately, some areas of the original statute under the wing of the goose were almost untouched by the weather, even over 80 years, so I picked up a lot from that." After the clay recreation was complete, Ojeda took a mold from it, then cast the statue in bronze.

How long will the new bronze statue last? "Well," laughed Ojeda, "they're digging up pieces from the bronze age that have lasted over 5,000 years. I'll personally guarantee it for 1,000 years!"

A great admirer of the piece, Ojeda gives the original J.C. Nichols architect, Herbert



Shown at the installation of the new Armour Fields fountain statue on April 6 are Paul Benson from the Nelson Atkins Museum of Art, Armour Fields islands chair Vonda Jensen, Armour Fields president Dave Jensen, sculptor Robert Ojeda and city liaison John Murphy.

Hare, a great deal of credit. "He was the one who envisaged this statue in that place, complimenting the rest of the park."

Those interested in comparing the original to the recreated version will find the original stone statue, almost unrecognizable from weather damage, at the southwest corner of the park.

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Wanted: Special Events Chair

The Armour Fields Homes Association is still seeking a chair for its Special Events committee. The Special Events committee puts together fun neighborhood events, like the Easter Egg Hunt (see page 4), our Annual Meeting, our Halloween Party each October, and our annual Holiday Lighting Contest in the winter. Are you interested in helping keep these activities alive? Call Dave Jensen (phone number on page 10) and he'll be happy to talk with you!

One of the great neighborhood traditions of our homes association to the north, the Country Club District Homes Association, is its Fourth of July Bicycle Parade that attracts bikes, trikes, wagons, golf carts and about every other kind of wheeled vehicle. They allow other neighbors to watch the fun, so keep an eye out on Fourth of July morning for this interesting event!

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The Newsy Neighbor

by Jan Flanagan

(continued from page 3)

were doctors Dale Jarka and Doug Tietjen. Their group left in early May for a week assisting in a clinic. Both have made the trip before...

Soon on her way to Spain is Annie Fairchild (Lisa & Charlie). She will be taking classes at Harvard in the summer then continue her studies in Madrid. Her sister Julie is with Jones Lang LaSalle in Chicago, the world's largest real estate wealth management firm. Julie will be making her mark here in KC as head of a consulting team for redevelopment of the old Bendix plant...

You never really leave home, as Julie McLarney can attest. The Reece and Nichols agent grew up at 67th & Pennsylvania (her parents are Sandy & Jim), then lived in the 400 block of 68th Street after she was married. Now divorced, she and daughter Jamie (age 10) just moved to another home in the 67th & Penn area, and her ex-husband John Franklin lives at 67th Terrace & Penn in a house she

sold him. (Are you following all this?) Sister Suzanne and her husband Jeff Teeven on 68th Street round out the McLarney compound!...

Dave Jensen needs a compound for his lawn tractor! He's the envy of the neighborhood on his sleek model, daring any grass to remain unmowed...

That's it for now. Remember to send graduation info soon as well as any other news. Remember, news big or small, your neighbors want to know! Email Jan, the Newsy Neighbor jflans@msn.com (BE SURE to write Newsy Neighbor in the subject line) or call 816.333.8947.

Important Romanelli Fountain Notice

The water in the Romanelli Island fountain contains harmful chemicals and also is an electrical shock risk for anyone wading, or animals drinking from the fountain. Please enjoy the fountain from the raised edge, and avoid entering the actual fountain basin. Thanks!

FAMILY DENTAL CARE



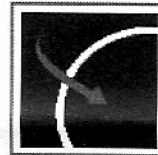
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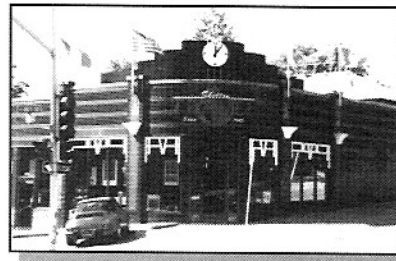
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Spring and summer are great times for yard signs of all kinds (For Sale, Garage Sale, contractors' advertisements, etc.), but remember that by city regulation these are supposed to be *no larger* than two feet by three feet, and none are to be posted on association property (only on private property).

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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