



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 2006

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Armour Fields Holiday Lighting Contest is Next!

by Duane Thrutchley

Get ready to light up the neighborhood this holiday season. For those interested in entering the famous Armour Fields Homes Association holiday lighting contest, here are the rules:

- Decorate your home for the holidays.
- Display your house number so it is visible from the street and place a sign in your yard "CONTESTANT".

- Judging criteria is based on: Overall lighting theme/organization, Originality, Complexity/Detail, and Variation/Use of color.

- The contest has four individual award categories: Best of Show, Most Elaborate, Most Original, and Most Colorful.

- The one group category is: Best Block

Judging will take place the night of December 17, so be sure to have your lights turned on this evening, with a "CONTESTANT" sign in your yard and your house number visible. You may even want to add the house number to the contestant sign.

Happy Holidays!
Win or lose, all of us will enjoy your decorations!



We had a delightful neighborhood Halloween party on October 28. Here is a cutie with Mom...for other pictures, see page 6 of this issue.

Update on Sixth Church of Christ, Scientist

Sixth Church of Christ, Scientist, at 67th & Wornall, is continuing to explore alternatives to maintaining its current beautiful church facility in our neighborhood, according to Craig LaMaster, the president of the Executive Board for the church.

Last issue *The Armour Star* reported that the church congregation had decided to demolish the existing structure, but changed its mind after the plan gave rise to neighborhood objections. In an interview with Mr. LaMaster following the publication of that article, *The Armour Star* is able to report the following clarifications and updates:

- ♦ The current church, although beautiful from the outside, presents substantial maintenance issues for the congregation. Its rock is porous, meaning that it leaks in rainy weather. Constant applications of resealing material inside the church can address this problem, but the regular reapplications which are required are expensive. Due to lack of sufficient funds for constant maintenance, the church leaks substantially inside the structure, thus giving rise to a need for costly repairs, including repainting and recarpeting.

- ♦ In addition, the church steeple is in need of major repairs.

- ♦ The total cost of repairs estimated for the church is in the neighborhood of half a million dollars, but an appraisal of the property shows that the church has a market value of less than that. Although the congregation loves the facility, the church lacks certain amenities which most contemporary church congregations expect of their worship centers, such as a kitchen

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President's Column

by Doug Jackson
President

As it the case with any volunteer organization, Armour Fields is always looking for interested folks to partici-



partate in the affairs of our neighborhood.

Right now, we are looking for somebody to participate in the beautification of our islands to take over for Vonda Jensen,

who has worked hard to improve our neighborhood for a number of years.

We also will have an opening for special events, a fun job for a person with a flair for creativity. The talented Duane Thrutchley is stepping aside after working on the board the past couple of years. We thank him for his outstanding ideas and hard work.

In departing from the presidency of the Armour Fields Homes Association board, I would be remiss if I did not offer a few words of thanks. During my terms, I have truly enjoyed the support that we have received from our residents. I especially wish offer my thanks to the board members and block captains (past and present), many whom I consider friends as a result of the relationships we established through our work in the neighborhood.

I continually hear wonderful compliments about our neighborhood from community leaders and visitors alike. I always smile and nod, knowing that I cannot think of a better place to call home

Romanelli Fountain Island Nears Completion

by John Murphy, City Liaison

By the time of this printing the stonework on the Romanelli Island should be complete. New curbing has been placed around the pool basin. This new curbing will be slightly higher than original fieldstone, to grass clippings and other small particles from blowing in the pond and clogging up the fountain pump. The higher curbing will also prohibit small children and animals from wandering into the pool.

A new irrigation system has been installed on the island to keep the newly seeded lawn lush and green. In addition, new landscaping will be installed this spring, also watered by the irrigation system.

Our fountain is ready to be reinstalled once the new bronze statue is finished. The fountain's pedestal base has been repaired and sealed.

The casting of the new bronze statue has been delayed because our artist has had emergency back surgery. His expected completion time is early December, so the fountain should be in place by Christmas.

Soon the island will be finished, to be enjoyed by Armour Fields residents for years to come.



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. Half page ads: \$105.00 per issue or \$370.00 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

Wonderful mature trees are one of the joys of living in our neighborhood. We appreciate them slightly less as we rake, rake and rake some more, but you have only to spend time in barren newly developed parts of town to renew appreciation for our foliage. It's a wonderful time in the neighborhood!...

Cheers for and from Inga Kirsch (daughter of Marsha & Greg). The 2006 Bishop Miege grad is on the KU cheerleading squad. Catch her in action at the KU football games...

More cheers, this time for recent Eagle Scout Ben Gillis (Denise & Steve.) Ben earned his ranks at St. Peter's Troop 118...

Continuing the cheers, Tom Hogan (Mary Kay & Jim) ended his forensics career at Miege this spring with National Forensic League designations of All American and Academic All American. He placed 36th in the nation!...

Kudos to all our accomplished young neighbors. Kudos as well to our own Fifi Wiedeman who has purchased the beloved Dime Store. Fifi reports that her goal is to open in March, with the wooden floors in place, newly polished. It will once again be the site to find everything from pipe cleaners to vacuum cleaner bags. Thanks, and good luck, Fifi!...

A balmy October afternoon provided the perfect setting for the annual Halloween party. Crisp fall colors and gaily striped tents were a backdrop for games and treats galore. Duane Thrutchley and his crew once again planned a sensational event for our small neighbors and their parents. Newsy didn't see many ghosts or gob-

lins, but plenty of other creatures were represented. Kathleen & Mitch Dorris were with their Leah, age 6, ready to party in her black and white spotted cowgirl outfit. Kathleen and her sister Amy Lutz were helping young ones at the various games as was Gayle Clair. Also running games were Jose Aceituno, at the graveyard ball, and Brian Hand, who flashed his tooth-impaired grin at the "shooting" booth...

New Homes Association president Dave Jensen helped dinosaur daughter Zoey check out the treats, while mom Vonda reined in their Scotty dog Angus. Kate Jackson (Doug & Melissa) had the best line of the day, asking "Have you seen a blue leopard?" and then responding by pointing to her costume and saying, "Now you have!" Sister Greta, 4, was content to act the part of the beautiful princess - on her own pink pony. ..

Jonathan Greenwald, 4, (Lisa & Brian) was a fluffy puppy. His sister Leah, 2, was napping at home. Seen at the spinning Frankenstein were Carley Guignon, 11, (Terri & Chuck) in brown camouflage and her friend Madeline Best, also 11, (Denise & Tom) whose bright orange tee sported a glittering "Boo!"

Ninja warrior Nick Collins, 7, (Stephanie) won a ghost at the sucker tree. Arriving all at once by the scarecrow guarding the treat bags were Emily Bland, 10, a school slacker; Big Mac Jessica Tierney, 10 and her crypt master brother Liam, 7, with mom Jennifer; Daniella Del Greco, 8, in baby pj's and her sis Julia, 6, a witch, with

(continued on page 7)

We welcome the following new neighbors to the Armour Fields Homes Association. Please take a few moments to welcome them to our neighborhood!



- Janet Long
1004 West 66th Terrace
- Wiley Welborn III
428 West 68th Street
- Julie McLarney
439 West 68th Street
- George & Karen Bock
608 West 68th Terrace
- Dorothy Smith
6919 Edgevale
- Evelyn Dunn
6932 Edgevale
- Mark McAdams
7019 Edgevale
- Tyler & Shari Brundige
622 West 69th Terrace
- Michael & Denise Jeffries
621 West 70th Terrace
- Travis Boozer
638 West 70th Terrace
- Daniel Marshall
420 West Dartmouth
- Brad & Isabell Cahoon
608 West Dartmouth



Sixth Church of Christ, Scientist

(continued from page 1)

and off-street parking facilities.

- ♦ The church board has looked at a number of different potential ways to address these issues and has explored numerous alternatives.

- ♦ The church board did not make the initial decision to demolish the existing structure and replace it. That decision was made by the church congregation as a whole.

- ♦ The structure that was planned to be built on the property was not going to be a chapel, as reported in the August issue, but rather an 8,000 square foot church.

- ♦ The reason the project was canceled was because proposed funding for the project was withdrawn. The funding was available for only a limited time period, and the church could

not meet the deadline.

Notwithstanding the continuing issues surrounding the church facility, Mr. LaMaster expressed pleasure with the neighborhood attention raised by the issue.

"I am very pleased to know what impact our church home has on the community," he told *The Armour Star*. "Although there is nothing in our By-laws that would require us to get neighborhood approval for making church decisions, I believe it has been good to know and understand the passion of our neighbors regarding this issue."

A letter to the community from the Executive Board of Sixth Church of Christ, Scientist, appears to the right.

A Letter from Sixth Church

Dear Neighbor,

As Thanksgiving Day nears, we want to express our gratitude to you for all you do to make our neighborhood as lovely as it is. As an integral part of the neighborhood we want you to know that our church services are always open to you. Won't you join us on Thanksgiving morning for our annual Thanksgiving Service?

The service lasts one hour. We do not take a collection nor ask for free-will offerings. Child care is provided for children up to age 8 during the service.

Our Thanksgiving Day Service will be on Thursday, November 23, 2006 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Our church is at 400 W. 67th St. (67th Street and Wornall Road), Kansas City, Missouri.

We hope you will join us on this day of gratitude.

Warmly,
Sixth Church
Executive Board
R. Craig LaMaster,
Chairman

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Block Captain News

by Gail Clair and
Kathleen Dorris

On October 3, a large crowd of your Block Captains turned out for a meeting featuring the introduction of our new crime prevention chair, Brian Hand. Brian has a military and law enforcement background and is back from service in Iraq. Brian and his wife Karen have agreed to assist the board and we are very lucky to have them both!

We heard updates on various neighborhood projects, including the Romanelli Fountain, Southwest High School, and the Sixth Church of Christ Scientist by Doug Jackson.

Within the last few weeks we walked door to door talking with neighbors, handing out flyers and looking for new recruits. The good news? Ashley and Justin Dean who reside on the 1000 block of 69th Street have agreed to step up and help out their block. Thanks so much!

Currently a few blocks remain open and we are hoping to fill those vacancies by the end of the year.

If you would like further information please feel contact one of us. Our info is located on the back of this newsletter. We would love to have you!

A Block Captain on your block enhances security, fosters friendships, and provides a better living environment on your street. Couples or individuals can share the position. Minimal time commitment is involved.

Below are the vacancies we are still trying to fill:

- 6500 Summit block
- 6500 Valley block
- 800-1000 block of 65th Street
- 1000 block of 66th Terrace
- 800-1000 block of 67th Terrace
- 600 block of 68th Terrace
- 1000 block of 70th Terrace

Thanks!

Dave Jensen to be Armour Fields Homes Assoc. President

Effective on January 1, Dr. Dave Jensen will become the President of the Armour Fields Homes Association.

Jensen and his wife Vonda have served as the co-Vice Presidents for Parks and Islands of the homes association since May of 2004.

Doug Jackson is leaving the presidency of the Armour Fields Homes Association after having served in that role for the past five and one-half years. The neighborhood is grateful for Doug's time, efforts and marvelous leadership.

Jackson will continue to serve on the board and work on special projects for Armour Fields. Among other projects he will assist John Murphy and Brian Greenwald on the renovations of the Romanelli Island fountain.



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Free Public Lecture at Sixth Church Set for December 12

Sixth Church of Christ, Scientist will hold a free lecture on Tuesday, December 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the church auditorium. The lecture will be given by Robert Gilbert on the topic of "How God Heals Resistant Problems."

This lecture is for the community and we invite everyone to attend. Mr. Gilbert is a member of the Christian Science Board of Lectureship.



Perfect fall weather set the scene for the annual Armour Fields Homes Association community Halloween Party. Under the big top tents at Southwest High School, neighborhood ghouls and goblins gathered to join in all the activities and fun.

There was a monster shooting gallery, a tombstone basket shoot, frightful fishing, a pumpkin lollipop tree, a monster bumps dart throw, tic-tac-toss, a skeleton cane toss, spooky roulette, and a monster milk bottle ball toss.

Special thanks to all the board members for helping make this event successful.



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Kansas City, Missouri Begins 3-1-1 System

The City of Kansas City, Missouri has instituted a new 3-1-1 dialing system, modeled after the 9-1-1 system for emergencies, which is designed to be a one-stop-shop for handling any requests, complaints or suggestions.

The idea is that this new system will avoid having callers bounced from one department to another while one City Hall staffer after another disclaims responsibility.

By dialing 3-1-1, the caller will reach the Action Center, which the City says is staffed by trained call-takers who will take the caller's request, relay the information to the appropriate city official or department, and assign a reference number to the call. The caller can then track the City's response by calling the Action Center again and using the reference number. Alternatively, the caller can also track the progress of the request by going to the City's website, www.kcmo.org.

The City has also trained a group called the "Tiger Team" to follow up requests and complaints processed through the Action Center. Tiger Team members work in the field to verify that problems have been corrected.



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Safe and Secure



The Holiday Edition

by Brian S. Hand
Crime Prevention Chair

The holiday season is upon us and with the joy of the season we should not forget the need for vigilance. Criminals love the holiday season too, but you can make their "shopping" a little more difficult this year by following these easy tips:

◆ *Out-of-Sight Out-of-Mind* – Criminals are more likely to target a sure-thing. If they look in your window and see a new X-Box and plasma TV they will be more apt to try to get those items. Be sure to keep your blinds closed in the evening and when you are not home. This will keep the bad guys from window-shopping. Big-ticket items should also never be left in plain view inside an automobile. Place items in the trunk or under a blanket, and remember that a Best Buy bag isn't the best disguise.

◆ *Trash or Treasure* – If you are lucky and Santa brings that big screen TV, computer, or other valuable big box item you may consider saving the box for a few months. First it will help in case you have to take it back, but also it can serve as a billboard that says "ROB ME!" If you must put that large box out, break it down, turn it inside out, and put it out the morning of the pickup.

◆ *Do I Know You?* – So you just left the mall with your stash of goodies, and you are on the way home. You notice that someone keeps making every turn that you make. If you think that you are being followed, make a few turns that you usually wouldn't take. If you are still being followed go to a police station or public place where police are known to frequent, like QuikTrip. If you are close to home, drive on past and don't let them know where you live.

Safety is another concern this time of year; there are plenty of things to look out for around the holidays.

◆ *Flickering Candle or Three Alarm Blaze* - Regardless of your faith, candles are common in many observances. A Menorah or Kinara in the window should stay clear of the drapes, candles should never be placed on or near a Christmas tree, and any open flame should be out of the reach of children and away from flammable materials.

◆ *Slipping and Sliding* – With the weather turning cold it is inevitable to have some slick spots which can land you on your bottom. Keep on your own two feet with some ice-melt on driveways and sidewalks. Avoid

products with salt as they can damage concrete over time. Check your home center or the internet for the products that are best for you.

◆ *Turkey Lurkey* – That sick feeling that you had last year from the turkey may not have been a result of the sheer volume that you ate, it may have been due to salmonella. Make sure that all poultry products are thoroughly cooked and prepared on clean surfaces.

For more tips on holiday safety check these websites, they are a very good place to start:

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

<http://www.pp.okstate.edu/ehs/LINKS/holiday.htm>

Stay safe and secure this holiday season!

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Southwest Secondary School Facility is Focus of Efforts

Armour Fields continues to work in a leading role with the Southwest Community Alliance, which is working to reformulate the role of the Southwest High School building. Doug and Melinda Jackson, who are active in this effort, report that the new administration of the Kansas City School District appears to have embraced many of the ideas shared by Armour Fields Homes Association neighbors who toured the facility this past June.

The Southwest Community Alliance believes that property values in our neighborhood are tied in part to having quality public education facilities. If we can work to make these facilities better then all of us will benefit. We may get further benefit if we succeed in redefining public education from just being a school choice, to public education as educating the public - in this case our community. This is the objective of the Southwest Community Alliance efforts.

Because Southwest Secondary School is located within the Armour Fields Homes Association borders, the homes association board intends to remain active in this effort.

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The Newsy Neighbor

by Jan Flanagan

(continued from page 3)

dad Steve; and Lauren Brands, 10, dressed as a milkshake. Lily Altenhofen, 6, came with dad Chris and grandpa Joe. Emily, 5, and Michael, 3, were with dad Jeff. Jeff Breedlove brought Matthew, 5, sporting bright clown hair and his brother Ethan, 3, dressed as Darth Vader. Their aunt Jennifer Breedlove helped shepherd them around...

Winnie the Pooh was there, in the person of Sammy Freund, 4, with his big brother Ian, 5, a skeleton, and mom Heather and grandma Mary Jean. Ali Madden, 3, was a cute clucking chicken with Terry. Little Sophie Armstrong, 2, needed a wee bit of help from dad Dave to knock over the milk bottles, but they got it done while mom Melissa cheered them on. Megan & Steve Thornberry brought their own pink bunny Ellie, 2, and Cynthia Reichart carried tiny clown Topher, just 9 months old...

Showing off his cowboy hat and chaps was Nicholas Gardner, 3, (Jill & Todd.) Woofing as a puppy was Isabel Wilson, 3, (Clare & Russ). She brought her new baby sister, Sophie, a mere 4 months, outfitted as the most adorable lobster ever. Congrats to the committee for a wonderful event, and thanks to all the workers...

Slightly older kids had their own parties this fall, the BOTAR events. Presented as a Belle of the American Royal this year was Julie Fairchild, daughter of Lisa & Charlie. After all the festivities die down, Julie will be leaving for her new job as a financial analyst in Chicago. Selected as a BOTAR escort this year was Bryan Flanagan (Jim & Jan), while young Taran Smith (Therese & Gary) was chosen to be a page. Therese chaired one of the hardworking committees for BOTAR...

Get well wishes to Valerie Caffrey. Uneven sidewalk tripped her up, resulting in a broken wrist and broken elbow - on opposite arms...

Run, Annie, run! After endless miles of training here in the neighborhood, Annie Fairchild (Lisa & Charlie), a sophomore at Northwestern University, successfully completed her first marathon, in Chicago. Her family was there to cheer her on...

Fond farewells to Pam Fleischer & Ken Weiner as they leave our neighborhood for loft living. Come back any time to see our beautiful trees!...

That's it for now. Remember, news big or small, your neighbors want to know. Call Jan, the Newsy Neighbor, 816.333.8947 or email jflans@msn.com and BE SURE to write Newsy Neighbor in the subject line.

Armour Fields Homes Association
Board of Directors

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HAPPY
Thanksgiving
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 AND ALL



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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