



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

November 2007

Our security service:
Midwest Patrol Services
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Watch for 2008 Armour Fields Events!

The board of your Armour Fields Homes Association is already planning various neighborhood events for 2008.

Watch for our annual Easter Egg Hunt in April, our neighborhood Garage Sale in May, and our Annual Meeting in June.

Future issues of this newsletter will contain exact dates and more details, but plan now to attend!



The Fall Gathering party on October 20 attracted interestingly dressed characters such as these. They were entertained with food, games, crafts and hay rides (right).

Armour Fields Set for Holiday Lighting Contest

December is nearly here, and you Armour Fields residents know what that means! Our annual Holiday Lighting Contest is close at hand!

If you wish to participate, here are the simple rules:

- ◆ Decorate your home for the holidays however you see fit...only your imagination is the limit!
- ◆ Make sure that your house number is clearly visible from the street, perhaps focusing a light on it if necessary (by the way, this is a good idea year round, not only just during the holiday season).
- ◆ The evening of the judging, place a sign on your yard that says "Contestant."

Judging for the competition is done on the basis of several criteria: overall theme/organization, originality, complexity/detail, and variation/use of color.

The Armour Fields contest has four separate categories: Best of Show, Most Elaborate, Most Original and Most Colorful.

There is also a block-wide lighting contest, which is simply Best Block.

The judging will take place the evening of Sunday, December 16. Be sure to have your lights turned on that evening, with the "Contestant" sign in your yard.

You may even want to add your house number to the "Contestant" sign.

Happy holidays! And remember, win or lose... all of us benefit from your attractive decorations.

We appreciate all that you do to brighten our neighborhood during the holidays!



Hay rides around the neighborhood were a popular addition to the Armour Fields Fall Gathering party this year. Youngsters and adults alike enjoyed the treat.

President's Column

by Dave Jensen
President

Hello to all! The leaves are falling and the air has a chill to it and this can only mean one thing—the Holiday season is fast approaching. It's nearly time to climb up into the attic or dig deep in the corner of the garage and retrieve the Holiday lights and decorations.

The Holiday light display contest will take place the evening of December 16th this year. Everyone is welcome to participate and show the Armour Fields neighborhood spirit. Be sure house numbers are clearly lit for the judges to see.

This year's Fall Festival was a rousing success. All the Ghouls and Goblins came dressed in Halloween attire and enjoyed tricks and treats, and even got to horse around on hay rides through the neighborhood. Great job to Karen Hand, Joy Crimmons, and Susan Smith for planning the event.

One of the goals we as a board strive for, is providing special events throughout the year that everyone can enjoy.

In the past, a majority of the events have been children centered. I can assure you this will continue, but we want to be able to include teens as well as adults. If anyone has any suggestions or ideas on events, please let us know your thoughts.

I want to welcome three new board members. John Christianson is stepping down as treasurer and he

will be sorely missed. Carey Linson is taking his place. She has brand new batteries in the calculator and is ready to go.

Susan Smith has graciously taken over the chair of the Special Events Committee, and Darren Fulcher will be the new City Liaison.

I want to welcome all the new board members, and look forward to an exciting new year.

I have included a budget breakdown as to where the dues are allocated. This appears on page 11 of this issue of the *Armour Star*.



If anyone has any questions, do not hesitate to contact myself or any board member.

Keep in mind that Armour Fields Homes Association is not for profit organization and board participation is

voluntary and we all donate our time and energy to making the neighborhood a better and more safe place to live.

Well, it's time for me to get out the ladder and start hanging lights so if you see some guy hanging off the edge of his roof, feel free to stop and lend me a hand.

Happy Holidays and a Merry New Year!



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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 above): \$12 per issue or \$40 for four issues. Twice that size (size of ads on page 4): \$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

The impatiens finally met their demise. After a drawn-out warm Fall that allowed the tender plants to continue their blooming ways, the crispy night temps have zapped all but a few survivors around the patio. It's a beautiful season in the neighborhood!...

Sheryl Max shared a story from her block that appeared in the Kansas City Star a few days later. Seems former neighbor Joy Bates Boyle was on a train in Washington, D.C., when she saw a young man with a KU cap on. Joy and her husband were headed to KU soon for her mother's birthday, so Joy asked the fellow if he knew any good restaurants in Lawrence. He responded that he didn't go to KU, but had grown up in Kansas City. Joy said she had, too, and asked what part of town. They discovered they both had lived in Brookside. Where? Near 67th Terrace and Pennsylvania. Wow, me, too, said Joy. And which house? 604 W. 67th Terrace. After a moment of stunned silence, Joy cried that she had grown up in that same house! Furthermore, Joy and the young man, revealed as Joel Barr, even had the same bedroom! Joy's story was in The Washington Post, making the room where Maura Hinken now lives somewhat famous. A small world...

Sheryl & Brad Max had small world news of their own. Their daughter Megan, a freshly minted Florida State grad, was hostessing in

Kansas City at Kona Grill this summer. A group of businessmen came in, speaking Italian. A business and finance major with an Italian Studies minor, Megan chatted with them a bit. She did not know what business they were in, but let them know she was eagerly searching for employment. One thing led to another and Megan is now in Rome, interning with the investment firm headed up by one of those Italian diners!...

Congratulations to Melodie Powell. She was awarded the Tiger PRIDE award in recognition for her outstanding volunteer service to Mizzou. Cheers to her!...

Rockhurst High's new cookbook is out, featuring stories from alums and parents as well as great recipes. Several neighbors were involved with the project, including Maraline Hayob, Linda Dro, Jan Flanagan and Keith Gard. Get them at the Rock Shop, order online at www.rockhursths.edu or call the school 816.363.2036 for other sale hours...

Saw many familiar faces in the crowd near Meyer Circle watching the Tour of Missouri cyclists whiz by, including John and Diane Berkshire, Bob Chamberlain, Joanie Shramek and Terry O'Neill...

Welcome to young Christopher Michael Wright. The little cutie was born to Jonathan & Brigitte...

Neighbors young and not-so-young enjoyed a lovely sunny day for the annual Halloween Party. A new twist this year, wagon rides around the neighborhood, proved to be very popular. Karen Hand and Joy Crimmins deserve lots of applause for their organizational wizardry. Hay bales,

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!

Dean & Barri Sigvertsen
1016 West 66th Terrace
Robert & Susan Taylor
1006 Arno Road
Matthew Krull & Lauren Teaney
641 West 69th Street
Matthew & Lindsay Bowen
1021 West 69th Street
Brad Poos & Heather Dillon
1011 West 70th Street
William C. McKim
455 West Dartmouth
Doug & Stacey Carrow
604 West Dartmouth
Randolph & Claudine Williams
7059 Edgevale

pumpkins and mums set the scene for kiddies in costume playing games and Van Krulewich was turning balloons into amazing creations...

Neighbors sipped hot chocolate, water and adult beverages while chatting and munching on caramel apples and other goodies. Oz's Dorothy, also known as Lydia Valenti, arrived with grandmother Valerie Caffrey. Amy Zimmerman held 14-month-old Jackson, who sported an "I Love My Mum" tee shirt. Sis Zoe, 4½, was a dream of a Cinderella...

Rita & Don Davis of Dartmouth enjoyed the popcorn balls while watching the younger crowd. Grandmother

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I Live On A Corner In Brookside

by Peg Horner APRN, BC
President, Country Club
Homes Association

I live on a corner in Brookside. There are two lovely stretches of my yard where, usually in the cover of darkness, my fellow dog owners think leaving their dog waste is okay. This may come as news but the days of "my dog is just fertilizing the yard" are gone.

On September 20, 2007 the Kansas City Water Department Services published a conceptual plan called the Overflow Control Program. It is estimated to take over 25 years to complete the work of separating sewer and storm water systems in a 56-square-mile area in south Kansas

City, bounded by the state line to the west, 85th Street on the south, the Blue River on the east and the Missouri River on the north.

Even at the projected cost of between \$2.4 and \$3 billion dollars the City admits that this proposed Overflow Control Program will not fix the water pollution problem, namely the bacteria *E coli* and coliform, both fecal contaminants. According to the plan the probable source is pet waste leeching into the storm water systems that drain the entire metropolitan area, including Kansas communities.

Recently we've all become better environmental stewards. We're taking the stairs instead of the elevator, if it's only a couple of floors. We say

"Paper" instead of "Plastic". We sort our trash into recyclables and non recyclables. Here's another behavior change that will have a more significant impact on our environment and health, particularly the water quality: Promptly pick up your pet poop! Discard it in your trash.

I purchased biodegradable doggie bags online, a roll of 120 bags for \$8.99. I plan to buy an attractive container and place a roll of these bags on my fence. Maybe my fellow dog owners will consider using one next time, in the cover of darkness, when their dog decides to...well, you know. I better put a night light on that container.

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The Newsy Neighbor

by Jan Flanagan

(continued from page 3)

Letty Baker accompanied Carey Linson. Her Sam, 5, was fascinated with the exotic balloon shapes, while Molly, 1, spent her time being cute in a yellow hat. Harrison Roth, 3, was spotted holding his (Missouri) tiger tail as mom Alisa kept tabs on Mizzou cheerleader Abigail, 1....

Rena Althenhofen was with witch Lily, 7, and Ava, 2, a kitty leopard with a matching spotted balloon, courtesy of talented balloon man Van. Siblings Max, 8, and Esmé, 13, were at the hot chocolate table, as was another neighbor, Dr. Prince-Joseph. Mark Compton was with Tommy, 6, and Joey, 4. Sharon accompanied Derek Lester, 10, and a Hannah Montana Caitlin, 7. With them were Tess Prusa, 6, and Maggie Duncan, 5, dressed as a teddy bear...

Jill Gardner found her knight in shining armor -- Nicholas, 4. Ann Miller from Columbia was enjoying the day with them. 65th & Valley residents Juan Bruses kept watch over 6-month-old Manuel by the fountain while Geraldine Arrode was helping their 2½-year-old Lina. Scott & Tammi Cutter were there with pretty-in-pink Gina, 9, and Cutter, 5, in soccer gear. And who needed sugary confections when

Alli Madden, 4½, was sweet as could be in her candy corn outfit. Dad Terry kept an eye on her...

Star Wars was represented by the McClaren brothers. Sean, 5½, was Boba Fett, while Teddy, 2½ was a perfect Yoda. Dad Sean and uncle Troy rounded out the galaxy. Sophy Silva, 7, danced around as a princess while her red-haired Superman brother Sam, 5, saved the world as mom Mary looked on...

Harry Potter came to the party disguised as Tristan Hurley, 2½. His 10-month old brother Grayson was napping. Mom and dad are Julie & Matt. Kelly & Clayton Funk brought witch Addison, 2½, and 1-year-old Hudson. Cousin Maria from Boston joined the Devines, Lea-Marise & Keith and their 9-month-old Finnen...

Pam & Joe Meyer were with Jackson, 9, and Carson, 6. Sara Smith's baby is due in December. Her hubby Rob referred to Newsy as a gossip columnist. Tsk, tsk. Beware -- Newsy hears all and prints some!

Taylor & Zach Heitzman waited near the wagon ride. Also waiting were Russ & Clare Wilson with pumpkin Isabel, 4, and pirate Sophia, 1. Meredith Wilson & Jeff Baloutine brought Marcus, 10, in soccer garb, and two pugs, Lucy & P. Diddy. The last two were not in costume, just their own real fur!...

(continued on page 6)

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Annual City Lawn Pickup Coming Up

The City's annual winter pickup of leaves and brushes is coming right up. On the weeks of November 26 and December 17 the City will pick up from in front of your house up to twenty bags of leaves and yard materials. These should be in front of your house by 7:00 a.m. on Monday of the week listed.

The sacks can weigh no more than 40 pounds each. All sacks must be paper recyclable yard waste sacks; no plastics sacks will be picked up. No grass clippings will

be accepted, and no trash will be accepted. This is only for leaves, branches and brush.

All branches must be bundled. Branches must not be more than 3 inches in diameter and not more than 4 feet long. Bundles of branches must not be more than 2 feet in diameter and not more than 4 feet long.

Use twine or jute rope to tie bundles; do not use wire or plastic tape. If wet weather is forecast, cover sacks/bundles with clear plastic.

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The Newsy Neighbor

(continued from page 5)

Annie & John Houlehan enjoyed the festivities with Jack, 2. Molly & John Wier escorted Liam, 3, dressed in fireman's gear, and a darling puppy-faced Jake, 1½. Mike Lundgren and Clay, 9, found plenty to do. Melissa & Doug Jackson were with a "gypsy giraffe" Kate, 7, and princess Greta, 5. Sammy Freund, 5, was a flying dragon while Ian, 6, was a Ninja....

Judy Lafferty enjoyed a cinnamon popcorn ball while keeping an eye on her grandson Oliver Oxler, 7. They loved their wagon ride around our beautiful neighborhood...

And who wouldn't? Remember, news big and small, your neighbors want to know. Call or email your tips to Jan, the Newsy Neighbor, 333.8947 or jflans@msn.com and BE SURE to write Newsy Neighbor on the subject line.

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Safe and Secure



by Brian Hand
Crime Prevention

Safe

Fall is in full swing and with it the temperature is starting to drop. It is time to start preparing for freezing temperatures.

The following list is a good start to help you stay safe in the coming winter months.

- ▶ Have a winter check-up completed on your furnace or boiler, malfunctioning equipment can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning or a breakdown.

- ▶ Clean your gutters and downspouts, clogged gutters can lead to some very serious damage and even mold.

- ▶ Unhook outside hoses from the house, use inside shutoffs for outside faucets if you have them.

- ▶ Close storm windows to provide maximum energy efficiency.

- ▶ Make sure you have changed your smoke/carbon monoxide detectors batteries.

- ▶ Stock up on non-perishable

foodstuffs to get you through long winter storms.

- ▶ Get your snow equipment ready, snow blowers tuned up, shovels to the front of the garage, and ice melt. Don't wait until the stores run out.

Secure

There have been a lot of reports lately from our security service about open garage doors. Doors that are open overnight are a tempting target, and bring criminal attention to the neighborhood.

Areas where properties are not secure give a higher comfort level to criminals and are more likely to have increase in crime. Some of the things you can do to deter crime are listed below.

- ▶ Insure you have adequate lighting outside, dark areas provide the best access to burglars.

- ▶ Close your blinds at night, it is easy to see everything that is in your home from the outside. Always make

sure you close and lock all doors and windows where someone could gain access while you sleep or are away.

- ▶ Ask for business licenses for all door-to-door sales people; if they do not have a license you should call security or the police.

- ▶ Put your trash out in the morning, leaving it outside overnight gives identity thieves all the time they need.

- ▶ Also put your recycling out in the morning, especially those big ticket item boxes, turning the boxes inside out will prevent you from advertising that LCD TV.

Always remember that good planning and preparation can help you stay Safe and Secure!



Armour Fields neighbors were in the Halloween spirit this year with many interestingly decorated homes. Here are just a few of the ghostly decors that we spotted in the neighborhood. Notwithstanding the scary decorations, not too many tricker or treaters were discouraged from making their rounds.

Dog Barking Tips

Is your dog barking bothering your neighbors?

What may be music to a dog owner's ears, maybe disturbing to a fellow neighbor. When a dog barks, the dog is communicating: "Oh look, there's a rabbit in the yard," or "Wow, those kids playing on the street look like they're having fun."

Barking is a common and appropriate canine behavior as long as it isn't excessive and bothering others.

If you own a dog, be a good neighbor and ask yourself the following questions. Does your dog:

- Bark all night long while people are trying to sleep?
- Wake neighbors up by barking early in the morning?
- Is your dog left outside and bark and howl all day out of loneliness?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, please take the appropriate steps to keep your dog from being a nuisance to others.

Tips and Tricks:

- While your dog is playing outdoors (in your fenced yard), stay with the dog or supervise him/her closely from the house.
- Avoid letting your dog out late at night or early in the morning.

Even though barking is normal behavior, stop your dog from excessive vocalization by providing appropriate training.

Block Captain Report

by Gail Clair
Block Captain Chair

On October 4 the Block Captains presented Kathleen Dorris with a well deserved gift certificate in recognition of her three years of service on the Armour Fields board of directors as the co-chair of the Block Captains. Kathleen resigned due to other commitments after doing a great job.

We miss you Kathleen and are grateful for all your hard work.

Several blocks are working through the cumbersome process to replace the curbs and sidewalks on their blocks. One Block Captain has reported that the process has changed since her block originally began the process.

It may be worthwhile to contact the city to get an update if your block is considering the project.

Please be aware of the 311 Action line you may use to contact the city regarding any issues or concerns you may notice in the neighborhood. After a short wait with a recorded message the person on the line (yes a real person) will help you.

You may also connect on line at municode.com if you have questions about property upkeep/codes violations.

If you don't know who your block captain is call or e-mail me and I will get you connected. If anyone is interested in co-chairing the Block Captain position on the Board it would be great to hear from you. It takes a minimum amount of time and is a fun way to get involved in the neighborhood.

Have a Happy Holiday Season and I will be in touch regarding the late spring early summer meeting. Thanks for all you do to make this a great neighborhood.

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Pine Disease Affecting Neighborhood Trees

A pine tree disease called sphaeropsis is infecting pine trees throughout the Kansas City area.

This is a fungus which causes shoot blight and cankers on pines. The most common hosts are Scotch pines and Austrian pines. It usually attacks trees which are suffering stress because of poor site location, drought, snow damage, mechanical wounds and insect damage.

Sphaeropsis can kill a pine tree over a period of several years by killing off new growth.

The spores of the fungus are dis-

seminated during the early spring to early summer, which is the wettest time of the year. They can also be carried from tree to tree by wind. The fungus invades and kills shoot tissue and forms spores on the dead tissue.

If you see shoot blight and branch or stem cankers, these are evidence of the presence of the sphaeropsis spores. You may also notice increased amounts of resin.

Infected shoots tend to be straw colored. They fail to develop properly and curl over, becoming very brittle. Black fruiting may be found

on dead needles or shoots.

Cankers are long, depressed areas on the branches of stems. When you remove the bark, you will see gray to black staining and brown pitch-soaked wood.

You can prevent sphaeropsis by planting in areas of good drainage and sunlight, watering during drought, and by avoiding wounding the tree. Remove dead or infected tips, needles and cones. There are also fungicide treatments which can help.



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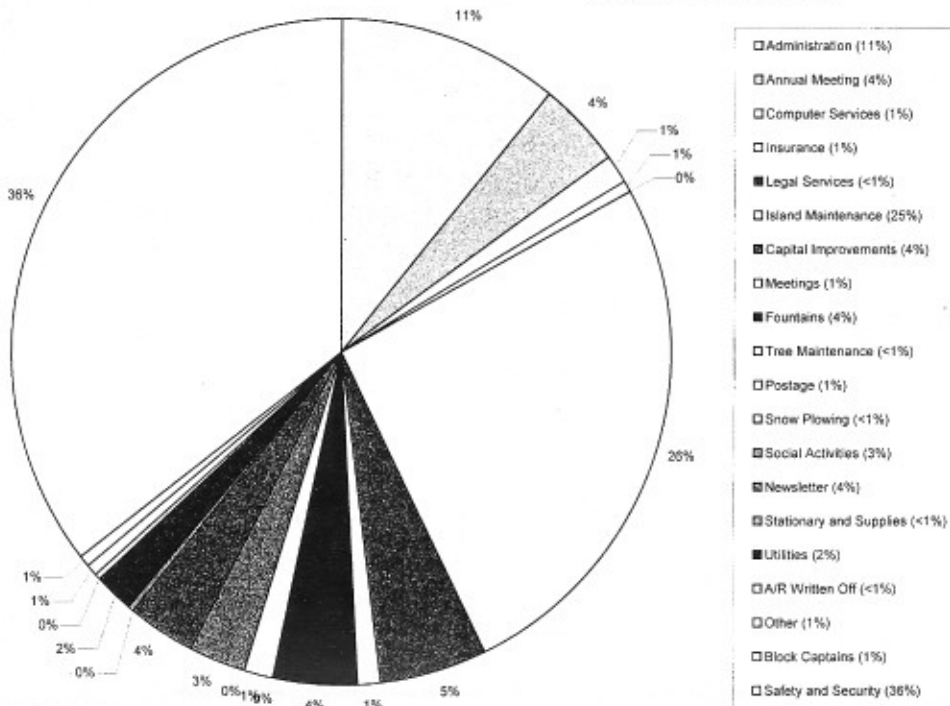
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Armour Fields Homes Association 2007 Budget Breakdown



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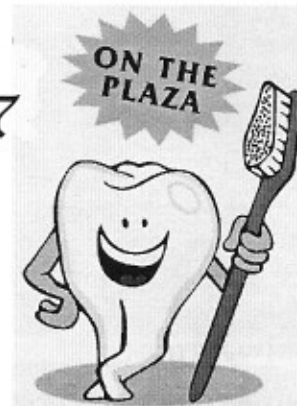
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Fountains	Kristen & Chuck Dimartino	700 West Gregory cdimartino@walterslaw.com	213-9157

These two youngsters were among those enjoying balloons at the Fall Gathering Party.



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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