

# 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

Our security service:  
Midwest Patrol Services  
816-454-9191

[www.armourfields.org](http://www.armourfields.org)

May 2006

## Romanelli Fountain Island Receiving Upgrade

by John Murphy, City Liaison

Remarkable progress has made on the Romanelli Fountain Island in a short period of time. The following is a recap of what has been completed and what still needs to be done in the following weeks.

To date, a new fieldstone walk made of Tennessee Crab resting on a steel reinforced concrete footing has been installed. New north and south entranceways have been installed. These entranceways will be enhanced with architectural lighting and have a

two-foot thick steel reinforced concrete foundation. A new drain for the fountain basin has also been installed.

These are the improvements that can be seen by driving by. The following are improvements that have occurred at an offsite location and can't be witnessed by driving by:

- The fountain has been cleaned and sealed.
- Maretta Kennedy, a local artist, has finished the clay sculpture for

(continued on page 4)

You are invited to the  
**Armour Fields  
Homes Association  
Annual Meeting**  
**Sunday, June 25**

**Time and Location:**  
Well, we're not sure yet, because the Romanelli Fountain Island improvements might not be finished. So watch your mail for a postcard announcement!

## Movie Nights

The Armour Fields movie nights originally scheduled for June and July at the Romanelli Fountain Island have been postponed for awhile because of the ongoing construction at the island.

Watch your mail or the next issue of this newsletter for news of the rescheduling. We'll watch movies in Armour Fields again. But please be patient while the island improvements are finished!

Armour Fields special events chair Duane Thrutchley (left) displayed his banner holding technique at the St. Patrick's Parade held in Brookside on March 11. Armour Fields was well represented with two banners. The other is pictured on page 11 inside.



## President's Column

by Doug Jackson  
President

As many of you know, we are undertaking a very large project — completely renovating the Romanelli Island and statue. With the limited funds we have it would have been impossible to have considered a project of this magnitude without the help of the City. Our fountain committee was able to accomplish this by working with our wonderful PIAC [Public Improvements Advisory Committee] chair, Janet Blauvelt.

However, as we look to dedicate the fountain in September the Armour Fields Homes Association

Board has asked our City Councilman, Jim Glover, to attend the ceremony. Jim and Susan Borge (his very capable executive assistant) have helped us to get \$60,000 we have needed to do the job right. John Murphy worked with Jim's team to show what we planned to accomplish and why the City as a whole can benefit from the restoration of this landmark.

Jim's team worked with Janet Blauvelt and PIAC to offer their support or the request and our need to make critical infrastructure improvements. As a result, Romanelli Island will be safe and solid for many decades to come.

Help in this area, though very much appreciated, would not normally constitute special thanks. After all, it is the job of our councilman to represent the needs of his constituents. However, Jim and Susan have gone out of their way to help on a number of projects — large and small, making sure that things get done when it seems like we keep getting the run-

around from every other City agency. A partial list includes help with curbs and sidewalks, recycling, the holes along Pennsylvania and other streets, proper liquor ordinances in Brookside, and many other projects.

One example: After meeting with other City groups regarding major problems we were having with broken sewer pipes, we received several promises from those in the highest levels — promises which were never kept. Likewise our other Councilman at the time made a big gesture of helping us, but no actual change occurred. It was only when we went to Jim



and he quietly worked to apply the pressure needed to make these requests happen, did we begin to see fixes on our streets, sewers and water mains.

Jim is also involved as we work

with the Kansas City Missouri School District to bring quality education to the Southwest Secondary School building. Most of us know that the City does not directly control our schools. For this reason, one would think that our schools represent a "third rail" for politicians — never to be touched, or it will kill any future hopes or electability.

We asked for Jim's support, fully expecting him to say "no" or asking to "be informed" of any news. However, that does not appear to be his style. He has attended several meetings and is willing to listen to ways the City can "do its part" to work with the School Board and the community at large.

In short, Jim is the only Councilman who has made a point to attend our meetings, listen and help.

It is not the policy of our Board to endorse politicians, and as of the writing of this column, Jim is coming to the end of his term as our City Councilman with no announcements regarding his future plans. I do hope, however, that he will remain in public service for Kansas City. It seems to be a place he loves and works hard to make it a better place for us to live.

## 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 one on this page is \$30 per issue or \$105 for four issues. A quarter page ad (size of ad on page 4) is \$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.



### Arthur's Acres Landscaping

Design and Installation  
Byron Arthur, Owner

byron@arthursacres.com  
816-309-7075

# The Newsy Neighbor



by Jan Flanagan

One of the busiest times of year is upon us. Weddings, graduations, proms, end-of-year organizational meetings and more fill our calendars. Just remember to take time to enjoy a glorious Spring in our neighborhood!...

As for graduations, the traditional graduation column will be next time, so be sure to send your graduate's info in — name, parents names, college or work plans, major, etc. It's always fun to learn of our young neighbors' plans...

Wedding bells will soon be ringing for Jane McManus (her parents are Julie & Jim). Jane finished her Master's degree in December and is teaching in the Shawnee Mission district. She will wed Matt Kolakowski at St. Peter's in July...

After daughter Emily's death a few years ago Paul and Vicki Silverman have devoted much time and energy to the non-profit Emily's Spotlight, started in their daughter's memory. This group provides dancing instruction and programs for underprivileged children. They always need of items like tap shoes (for boys especially), costumes and accessories, and seamstresses. If you can help or see items at a garage sale which might be useful, call Vicki 816-363-3204...

Try not to argue with the Hogan siblings. Tom, a Miego senior, and Erin, a sophomore, were on the state championship-winning debate team. Their (mostly silent) parents are Mary Kay & Jim...

Congrats to new grandparents Barbara and Tom Roche. Sadie Rose arrived in Washington, D.C. to parents Dr. Chris and Sarah Cannova in February. Julie & Jim McManus are eagerly anticipating their first grandchild in September. Expectant mom is their daughter Kathleen, who is working on her Ph.D. at the University of Iowa, where her husband has a fellowship in cardiology...

Pat Pierson is a member of the Kansas City Chiefs Red Coater program. The group helps Chiefs players with charity events and promotes the Chiefs in the community. They also sell season and group tickets. Call Pat at 816.820.2014 if you'd like her assistance in getting tickets...

Colorado State University student Logan Keech (his parents are Camilla & John) will spend much of the summer at CSU in Fort Collins, Colorado. The incoming senior was selected as a member of the freshmen

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 Maurutto  
1011 West 66th Street
- Adam Long  
1000 West 66th Terrace
- Christopher & Patricia Barnett  
6737 Valley Road
- Blaine & Monica Wilcox  
409 West 67th Street
- John Franklin  
451 West 67th Terrace
- John & Patricia O'Connor  
632 West Dartmouth
- Kevin & Ann McCluskey  
600 Romany Road
- Brian & Elizabeth Glick  
624 West 70th Street
- Zachary & Taylor Heitzman  
638 West 70th Street
- Suzannah Fromm  
1018 West 70th Street
- Anthony Hapgood  
1028 Romany Road
- Christine Copeland  
625 West 70th Terrace
- Ramon Larkin  
1023 West 70th Terrace
- Christin Cipolla  
700 West Gregory
- Judy Lafferty  
712 West Gregory

orientation program team. Attorney Charlie Fairchild has become a leading expert on the developing law and

(continued on page 7)

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Small illegible text at the bottom of the advertisement.

# Armour Fields Crime Remains Low

by Brad Boers, Security Chair

John Trainor, who works in Crime Prevention for the Kansas City, Missouri Police Department recently spoke at a meeting held for our block captains. John commented our crime rate was quite low and well below surrounding neighborhoods.

Kansas City Patrol, our security provider, has done an outstanding job of monitoring our neighborhood. In addition to acting as a deterrent while on patrol, they've also stopped countless individuals who had no known reason for being in our area and escorted them away.

Additionally, they are my eyes and ears and effectively communicate back to me with reports, suggestions and comments. Because of their outstanding service and

competitive pricing, we recently renewed their contract for another three-year term.

The residents of our association should also feel good about their continued efforts in limiting opportunistic crimes. Most homes utilize flood lights or motion detectors, have security systems and advertise them, keep their doors and windows locked, garage doors closed when not in use. People can be seen socializing with one another and keeping an eye on their neighborhood.

Thank you for your continued awareness and most importantly, financial support. These combined efforts have and will continue to provide for a safe and secure neighborhood.

## Romanelli Fountain

(continued from page 1)

the fountain top and it looks wonderful. That clay has been moved to the Eligius Foundry where the bronze sculpture will be cast. We look forward to the fountain and statue being installed sometime around July 1.

Here's a recap of what's on deck in the coming weeks:

- New plumbing will be installed to replace the rusted pipes.

- An irrigation system will be added to the island.

This will ensure a verdant green lawn throughout the long hot Kansas City summer.

- A regrading and seeding of the lawn will occur.

- Once the fountain has been installed new curbing will be placed around the base of the pool.

- Wrought iron will adorn the entranceways.

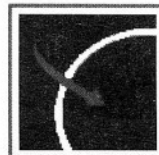
- Some additional lighting may be added as needed.

The island remains a work site and I ask all to be cautious when visiting the island. Once Bryan McBride finishes his stonework he will remove the debris and we will begin the work on the lawn.

Donations are always appreciated. In addition, many firms have matching grants, which are definitely appreciated.

Please send any donations to The Armour Fields Restoration Fund c/o The City of Fountains Foundation, 104 West 9th Street, Suite 30, Kansas City, Missouri 64105.

Thank you!



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# How Does Armour Fields Spend Its Money?

by Terry Madden, Treasurer

In response to several great suggestions from neighbors, we are now publishing the budget breakdown for the year periodically in the *Armour Star*. A couple of bullet points to provide some context for the pie chart:

- The budget is a guideline in the sense that we will come in a little high in some areas, and lower in other areas. On the whole however, we have been right on budget for the last several years.

- The pie chart reflects significant accounts for Armour Fields.

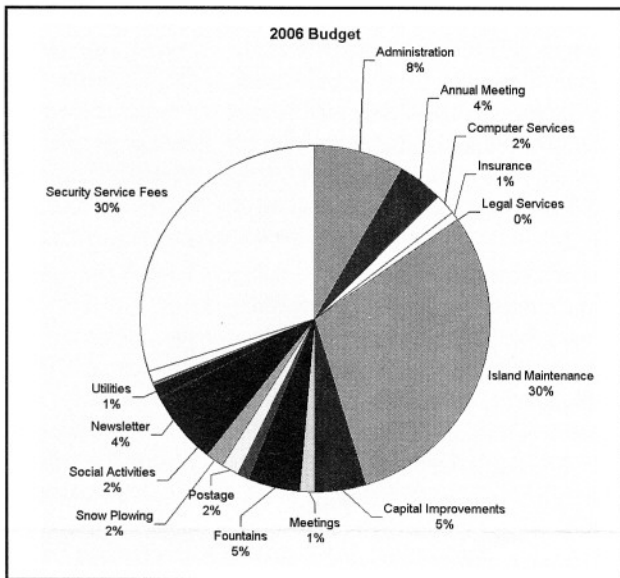
We often get the concern that money can be cut from such items as meetings and special events. As the chart indicates, we do quite a bit with very little in the way of funds. The reason we have so many special events

in our neighborhood is due to the amount of volunteer support we get from our Special Events chair.

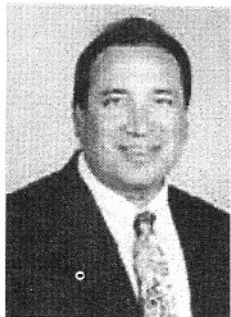
The chart shows a reallocation from Safety and Security (used to be 44%) to Parks and Islands as was promised during our recent dues reallocation initiative.

We do not know what our actual receipts will be until the end of the year. We work with

around \$85,000 as an aggregate budget for each fiscal year.



## Armour Fields Neighbor • Buying or Selling a Home



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## Community Involvement in Education

by Melissa Jackson

The Southwest Community Alliance, Inc. (SWCA) originated in the summer of 2005 when interested individuals met to discuss concern regarding the Kansas City Missouri School District's plans to utilize the vacant school building located at 6512 Wornall Road, formerly Southwest High School.

With concerns about the District's plans, this group sought to be included in the planning process for District services in our area to ensure that any changes would meet the needs of our specific community. Today plans to reopen Southwest have been temporarily placed on hold as the School Board completes its search for a new superintendent and plans its budget for the 2006-2007 school year.

Additionally, a recent grant from The Kauffman Foundation, specifically focused on math, science and technology skills, has been awarded to the District to be used to create a resource center at the Southwest building to serve District-wide needs. The SWCA continues to build influence in affecting the decisions of the District as it relates to the services offered in our specific community.

The SWCA's vision is "To support high quality public education and diversity within the student population as critical components of the quality of life we enjoy in our neighborhoods."

The stated purpose of SWCA is to influence change in the quality of service provided by the Kansas City Missouri School District to families

located in our geographic area (generally defined as the southern corridor between State Line and Troost), ultimately providing a high-quality public education alternative for parents in our neighborhoods who would otherwise not use the District services or remove their students from the District after their primary education.

As short term goals, the SWCA aims to (1) to foster community involvement to (2) create a high-quality district secondary school in our neighborhood, which will (3) capture and retain students who would otherwise explore alternative education or move away from our neighborhoods.

To this end, the SWCA is attempting to develop and maintain a formal

*(continued on page 8)*

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## The Newsy Neighbor

by Jan Flanagan

(continued from page 3)

judicial system as they are applied to young adults. He and K-State student Corbin Keech (Camilla & John) co-authored a book for young adults titled *DUDE, What Are My Rights?*, which has been selling well (find it at local stores or online.) Charlie has been making appearances on talk shows and on [www.VoiceAmerica.com](http://www.VoiceAmerica.com). . .

Kudos to neighborhood high school students selected to participate in National History Day at the Truman Library. St. Teresa's sophomore Mary Clara Hutchison presented a paper on Camille Pissarro. Rockhurst High juniors Colin Cicchetti, Michael Gude, Sam Wiedeman and Kevin Flanagan also presented papers at the event. . .

Welcome to Barbara Hubbard. She and Paul were married on October 30

at The Loretto. After a honeymoon in Costa Rica they are at home on Summit. Paul has two sons, Jake (age 6) and Cal, 4. Best wishes to the entire family. . .

By popular demand, we submit a request to help keep trash from blowing around the neighborhood from recycling bins. Even the breeze from a passing vehicle can scatter things about, so consider using paper sacks to contain newspapers and place heavier items, rather than beverage cans or plastic bottles on top. . .

Get well wishes to Dixie Pollard, who has been sporting a cast on her right arm since taking a tumble recently. Even surgery on the limb didn't prevent her from joining in a trail ride to Big Cedar with friends. . .

Joan Sondag Taylor is president of the Kansas City Rose Society. The Society is preparing to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Rose Gardens at Loose Park. Everyone is welcome to come June 4 from 1 to 5 p.m. to enjoy the 150 varieties of roses, along with strolling musicians, magicians, balloons and refreshments. . .

The Carlene Neihart International Organ competition was held the last weekend in April at the Village Presbyterian Church. Started three years ago to honor Carlene, the worldwide competition narrowed candidates down to three talented organists who then played in the finals here. . .

Jeni Hayob (Maraline & John) recently completed two months of study in Singapore and is now back in France at INSEAD, where she will graduate with an MBA in June. Meanwhile Kevin McManus (Julie & Jim) is finishing up his law degree at Saint Louis

(continued on page 8)

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## Community Involvement

(continued from page 6)

relationship with the Kansas City Missouri School District administration to provide an efficient mechanism for communication and support in pursuit of goals.

It is also seeking to develop broad Southwest neighborhood support for the Kansas City Missouri School District and a secondary school in our neighborhood by showing that such a school will promote significant retention of current students and the acquisition of new students to the district.

Another aim is to raise community awareness and funding in support of our goals and objectives. The SWCA plans to support Kansas City Missouri School District board members, candidates, administrators and programs which promote open public participation in the continuing devel-

opment of a quality public school system for all Kansas City, Missouri residents.

While the SWCA goal is to make change for our neighborhoods, its success depends heavily upon its ability to generate support. As with any effort to make significant change to a public practice or process, influence on a governing body is necessary. This influence is almost exclusively gained through "power" at the polls and in the press.

For the SWCA to have influence and make change, it needs your support. Please visit the SWCA website and register your support. In return for registering your email address, the SWCA will update you periodically on SWCA and District activities, which will help to empower your future decisions at the polls.

Please visit the SWCA website for more information and to register

for ongoing updates at [www.southwestcommunityalliance.org](http://www.southwestcommunityalliance.org), or just have your name added to our email distribution list by sending your email address to [melissa@2md.com](mailto:melissa@2md.com).

## The Newsy Neighbor

(continued from page 7)

University. After his bar exam he will become an associate with Stinson Morrison Hecker here in town.,,

In undergraduate news, Julie Fairchild (Lisa & Charlie) is graduating from Dartmouth with degrees in International Studies and Romance Languages. Ian Correa (Lynn & Chris) graduates from Beloit College in Wisconsin and is moving to St. Louis. Corbin Keech (Camilla & John) graduates from K-State with a degree in architecture and is headed to Portland, Oregon where he has accepted a position with an architectural firm...

Bryan Flanagan (Jan & Jim) graduates from Saint Louis University with concentrations in accounting and finance. His parents are glad to report that he has gainful employment lined up with the accounting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers here in KC...

That's all for now. More college grads and all the high school grad updates in the next issue. Be sure to get your news in, grad and otherwise! Send to [jflans@msn.com](mailto:jflans@msn.com) (be sure to write Newsy Neighbor on the subject line) or call Jan, the Newsy Neighbor, 816-333-8947.

*Thanks from our family to yours.*

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## Block Captain News

by Gail Clair and Kathleen Dorris  
Block Captain Co-Chairs

On the evening of February 23 we hosted a Block Captain Meeting at the home of Gail Clair. It was so very nice to meet so many of you and get a chance to exchange information on events going on in the neighborhood.

One of the most exciting events this year will be the implementation of our new curbs and sidewalks for those blocks who have passed this issue. Get ready — we are about to see a lot of construction in the neighborhood this summer.

If you are on a block that has approved this issue, we would like to encourage you to establish an e-mail list so you can easily update and share

info as you go through this process with the city.

Having an email list of everyone on your street is a great and easy way to communicate with your neighbors. From what we heard at the meeting, many block captains are having trouble pulling a list together. It does require a little effort...walking door to door and meeting your neighbors — but the effort is well worth it!

Break the list down and do a meet and greet, a few homes at a time. Before you know it your list will be complete!

Another news worthy item that many in attendance are interested in finding out about is implementing a neighborhood block watch program on

your street. For those in attendance that evening, we have recently mailed you a packet with information on how to get the program started.

If you were unable to make the meeting and would like more information, please contact Gail or Kathleen. Our phone numbers and email addresses are listed on the back page of this newsletter.

Please remember to update us with changes to your e-mail or block captain status.

We look forward to seeing you this summer at the neighborhood picnic!

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## What is Your House Number?

Is the house number on your home visible at night? If a police car or other emergency vehicle were trying to find your house after dark, could they do it?

All too many homeowners have house numbers that look just fine by daylight, but are impossible to see at night.

This is not only an annoyance to guests and others trying to locate your home in the evening, but it could place you or your family members in jeopardy in the case of an emergency.

Make sure your house number isn't invisible! Consider putting a second set of house numbers near a light that shines at night, or installing a light which makes your house numerals easy to read after dark.

The life you save may be your own!

# Lost and Found in Armour Fields: Easter Eggs



On your mark, Get set, go! And the race was on Saturday, April 15 at the 3rd Annual Armour Fields Homes Association Egg Hunt.

Signs of spring, fabulous weather and pastel colored eggs adorned the island at Ward Parkway between 69th Street and 68th Street. The island had been divided into quadrants according to age, as the kids waited patiently behind their lines for the scrimmage to begin. Then they were off, and running gathering bunches of eggs.

Between the weather, general enthusiasm and lots of loot, everyone had a wonderful time. Special thanks to Kathleen Dorris, Lisa Greenwald, Dave Jensen and Jose Aceituno for their help!

Shown above at left are some egg hunters awaiting the starting gun (or equivalent thereof) with homes association president Doug Jackson (looking the other way, of course).

At left are neighbors Barbara Meyer and Brian Greenwald with parents and youngsters before the race began.



The race was so tiring that parents and children both had to take a seat. Shown below are Lisa Greenwald with her young charges sorting through the loot. Shown at right is a young lady enjoying her discoveries.

Photos by Duane Thutchley, the Armour Fields special events chair who organized the event. Thanks, Duane!



## St. John's United Methodist Church 69th and Ward Parkway

✚ St. John's is an open, inviting, welcoming, and inclusive neighborhood church

✚ We are a center for spiritual, relational, and social transformation where God is worshiped musically and joyfully, where God's word is proclaimed with passion and enthusiasm, where faith and friendships are formed for all ages, and where members move out into mission and ministry in the neighborhood, the nation, and the world

✚ We are a child friendly, family oriented congregation, and we are handicapped accessible.

✚ Come and join us for one of our services!

# Help Wanted Advertisements

The Armour Fields Homes Association (AFHA) constantly tries to get fresh opinions and perspectives on neighborhood issues, and we need your input!

We currently have three board positions that will become open: President, Secretary, and Treasurer. With the exception of President, all positions are available for job sharing.

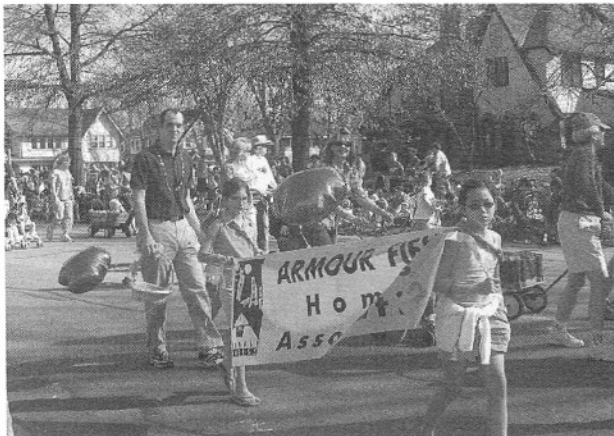
The positions require time, but not as much as you might think. We keep a professional but social atmosphere, which makes it fun to serve the needs of the community.

## President

*Job Description:* The president is the key representative of AFHA, both to its residents and to the community at large. This person will be overseeing all of the work done in the neighborhood, but has no specific responsibilities to manage tasks. The president will preside over Board meetings and be sure that tasks get done. The president will also attend special events and present updates to residents at the Annual Meeting. The position of president is a non-voting position.

### *Desirable Characteristics:*

- Needs to have a love for Armour Fields and for the community as a whole.
- Should have good interpersonal skills and an ability to explain Board positions and decisions to residents in a calm, rational manner.
- Should have an understanding and appreciation for the diverse composition of our residents.



This is the second of the Armour Fields Homes Association banners we displayed during the St. Patrick's Day parade on March 11.

- Needs to have the ability to manage the tasks of the Board and ensure that things get done in a timely manner.
- Should have some understanding of meeting facilitation using Roberts Rules of Order.
- Should have a fundamental understanding of budgets and general financial concepts.

*Minimum Term:* Three years.

## Secretary

*Job Description:* The Secretary attends the board meetings and captures key discussion points for the permanent record. This person will also capture tasks which need to be done by each chairperson and create the written minutes of the meeting proceedings. The Secretary also acts as the manager of the historical record, occasionally looking back into past records for information relevant for upcoming decisions. The position of Secretary is a non-voting position.

### *Desirable Characteristics:*

- Needs to have the ability to clarify discussion points and translate these into tasks with promise dates.
- Needs to be able to attend most board meetings
- Should have an interest in local history and get enjoyment from doing occasional research into work done by previous boards.

*Minimum Term:* Two years.

## Treasurer

*Job Description:* It is the job of the treasurer to propose and negotiate an manageable yearly budget for board approval. Once a budget is determined, the treasurer will approve and submit monthly expenses to the Homes Association of the Country Club District (HACCD) for processing. The treasurer does not need to manage bank accounts, cash, checks, or credit cards as this is all handled through HACCD. The treasurer reviews HACCD information and presents the report to the Board each month.

### *Desirable Characteristics:*

- Good attention to detail
- Responsible – will need to turn in expenses immediately for repayment.
- Timely in communication to other board member inquiries.
- Ability to objectively propose and deny expenditures.

*Minimum Term:* Two years.

## 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	Terry Madden	412 West 69th St. tmmadden1@yahoo.com	361-2918
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	Brad Boers	6534 Summit bboers@lockton.com	361-8491
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

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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What is the young Armour Fields resident at the right up to? Check page 10 to find out! Hint: It has something to do with chickens and springtime.

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