

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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August 2008

It's time to jump into your lederhosen, grab your bier stein and yodel your way over to the Armour Field Home Association's first annual **Oktoberfest Party**.

Come and enjoy some kraut and bier for an evening of whole-

Saturday
October 4
Romanelli
Fountain Island
5:00 p.m. to ?????

Armour Fields Selected for Historic Homes Tour

In celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Historic Kansas City Foundation Homes Tour, Armour Fields has been selected as the featured historic neighborhood. This year's tour will be held Saturday, October 11, 2008 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Each year, HKCF works with homeowners in historic Kansas City neighborhoods to select houses for its annual tour. In 2007 Old Briarcliff (located north of the river) was the selected neighborhood.

Tickets will be available for guided tours on Saturday, October 11th and may be purchased for \$12 at the registration table, which will be located in the Wornall Baptist Church parking lot. Advanced tickets are available at www.historickansascity.org after September 5 for \$10.

An air conditioned shuttle will be available for transportation the day of the event. A drawing for prizes donated by local merchants will

(continued on page 9)



Among the homes association officers speaking at the annual meeting of the Armour Fields Homes Association at the Romanelli Island in June were (above) security chair Brian Hand, city liaison Darren Fulcher,





and president Dave Jensen. Above are treasurer Carey Linson and parks and islands chair Vonda Jensen. More photos from the annual meeting appear on pages 9 and 10 of this issue.

President's Column

by Dave Jensen, President

A hot and humid hello to all! I can't believe that summer is nearing its end. Now is the time of the year that children are getting back to school, so keep an eye out in the

mornings and afternoons for kids walking to and from school.

There are a number of exciting events in the next few months that will be taking place in the neighborhood. In October the Fall Festival will take place at Romanelli Island. This will be a more adult-oriented Oktoberfest party but children of all ages are welcome to come and learn the chicken dance and listen to some good polka music.



Also, we have been selected by the Kansas City Historical Foundation to sponsor the Fall homes tour. This is a great honor and our chance to shine collectively as a neighborhood, as people from all over the city will be touring selected homes in Armour Fields. If you are interested in opening up your home please contact Joy Crimmins.

Now is also the time to start dusting off the Halloween and Christmas decorations. The annual lighting contest will be held in December, so start checking the bulbs and planning your displays!

I am pleased to announce that the City of Kansas City has provided Armour Fields

Advertising

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 smaller ad on page 4): \$30 per issue or \$105 for four issues. A quarter page ad (size of ads on page 5): \$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.

Homes Association funds for several beautification projects throughout the neighborhood. More information on the projects will be presented at the Fall Festival, so stay tuned.

Several neighbors have expressed interest in the process for obtaining new curbs and sidewalks on their streets. The following link may provide some needed information on the process: www.kcmo.org/pubworks.nsf/web/sidewalkmethods. If you have any questions please contact me, and I will attempt to clarify any questions.

Hope everyone has a great and colorful fall.

The final Armour Fields Garden Club meeting will be held on Saturday, September 27 at 10:00 a.m. at the Romanelli Fountain Island. A master gardener will be on hand to discuss how to prepare your garden for the fall and winter months. All Armour Fields residents are invited to attend free of charge.

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The Newsy Neighbor



by Jan Flanagan

The metallic thump of dumpsters, the clang of ladders, the whine of power tools – it's remodeling/rejuvenating time in the neighborhood!...

Another recent sound here in the "hood" is that of doors closing on a carefree summer as students head back to school. Recent high school graduates include Malerie Moore (her parents are Gail & Randy.) The St. Thomas Aquinas grad will be attending Dallas University in Texas...

Bishop Miege grads are hitting the books in many new places. Stephanie Foster (Mitzi & Mark) will be diving for Columbia University in New York. Jake Liston will study at KU. His mom is Vici; his grandmother Betty O'Kell is on Valley Road. Erin Hogan (Mary Kay & Jim) has a full ride to Drake in Des Moines, Iowa. Also headed to Iowa, to Coe College in Cedar Rapids, is Notre Dame de Sion grad Anna Reardon (Gina Reardon & John Carr)...

Pembroke Hill graduate Emily Smith (Deborah & Scott) will study cello performance at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University in Maryland. Pembroke's Maggie Fairchild (Lisa & Charlie) will stroll to class at Boston College. Three new graduates from our neighborhood will attend the University of Arkansas: Kyle Hougland (Marlys & Karl) and Mary McCue (Michelle & Andy) of St. Teresa's will both be cheering for the Razorbacks, while Rockhurst's Jack Euston (Kathy & Kevin) will be on the gridiron there...

STA grad Kerry Beckett (Tricia & Ted) will swing a tennis racket between classes at the University of Arizona. Kathleen Bryant (Coly &

Robert) is a new Mizzou Tiger as is Rockhurst High grad Sean Attebury (Joy & Douglas). STA's Mary Clara Hutchison (Judy & Pete) will be studying both biology and studio art at Loyola University in New Orleans. Her STA classmate Elizabeth Warwick (Marcia & Richard) heads the opposite direction, to Loyola in Chicago...

Tara O'Flaherty (Julie & Joe) chose Creighton University in Omaha. Sam Lord (Kathryn & Terence) is in the U.S. Army Airborne after graduating from Rockhurst High. Other RHS grads include Danny Riesmeyer (Carol & Fred), who chose Miami of Ohio, and Peter Smith (Diane & Eric), who heads to Washburn University in Topeka...

UMKC is the choice of Patrick Shami (Teresa & Gholamali), while Collin Sigler (Linda & Andrew) will continue his lacrosse career at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee...

Newly minted college grads from our area include Molly Taylor (Janet & John) who graduated cum laude from MU with a degree in secondary education, social studies. Her family now boasts three teachers. Mom Janet is at the Kansas School for the Blind and brother John is finishing his certification to teach physics. Dad Dr. John is odd man out as a neuro-ophthalmology consultant...

Natalie Foster (Mitzi & Mark) received her nursing degree from UMKC. Seth Correa (Lynn & Chris) is back in KC after completing his degree in theater at Columbia College in Chicago. Ben Crowe (mom Denniele, grandmother Betty O'Kell) graduated (continued on page 8)

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!

Christina & Gregg Gignoux 441 West 66th Terrace Susan & Thomas Tivol 1018 West 66th Terrace Sharon Graybow & Carl Ade 1006 West 67th Street David & Mary Vaughs 403 West 68th Street Matthew & Elizabeth Gunter 441 West 68th Terrace **Bullzye** Dzine 6915 Edgevale Amy Sanders 7011 Edgevale Alex & Laura Hobbs 612 Romany Road John & Elaine Rasmus 647 Romany Road Matthew Goldstein & Molly Hathaway 420 West 70th Street Steven & Kelly Dillman 624 West 70th Street David & Hilary Lemon 433 West 70th Terrace Emily Brown 620 West 70th Terrace John & Barbara Lee 638 West 70th Terrace Timothy West & Jeanne Janchar 1005 West 70th Terrace Shawn & Kristin Edie 1012 West 70th Terrace

Southwest School Open with 6th & 9th Grades

Southwest Early College Campus at the former Southwest High School building on Wornall Road opened on August 25 with 120 ninth graders and a waiting list of over 70 students. The campus is also nearly fully enrolled in the sixth grade. Earlier this summer, the ninth graders experienced what life will be as a college freshman, living on the UMKC campus.

Much work has been done to repair, paint and updated the Southwest High School building. The SWECC's partners, UMKC, the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation (Kansas City's Partnership for Regional Education Preparation) PREP-KC, and the Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute, have been working together to ensure that the environment at the school has both a math/science feel as well a college ambience.

SWECC will have many opportunities for all students to receive



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tutoring and enrichment, both during the school day as well as after school. The school is reaching out to retired teachers as well as honors students from UMKC to help support its teachers who are helping their students in the direction of earning college credit. Anyone knowing of qualified individuals interested in helping should contact principal Steven Scraggs at 582-0965 or Beth McCarthy, the PREP-KC Program Associate, at 507-1306.

As part of helping to create a positive environment at the school, the school has a "plants on loan" program under which the school will take care of those plants you no longer need or are unable to take care of for some amount of time. Please let the school know if there are any plants you would be willing to loan or donate to SWECC.

Check the Web for Crime Reports

The Kansas City, Missouri Police Department has unveiled a Webbased crime mapping and alerting tool to provide more information to community groups, residents and businesses.

CrimeReports allows anyone with Internet access to see what crimes have taken place where they live and work. This service provides easy-to-read incident crime maps and automated alerts to the residents and businesses of Kansas City.

The service, located at www. crimereports.com, or from www.kcpd. org, provides neighborhood crime data in near real-time and is available now. You can sign up for automatic daily, weekly or monthly e-mail alerts to see when crimes occur near your home, school, or any location in Kansas City, Missouri. Crime incident data is updated nightly and includes the incident type, date, location, distance from the address you specify, case number and brief description of the incident.



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Block Captains Wanted!

Joy Crimmins and Peggy LaPierre, our Block Captain chairs, remind you that certain blocks in Armour Fields are still lacking a block captain. Do you live in any of the following blocks? If so, please consider volunteering to be the Block Captain

for your block. It's an easy job, and basically makes you the focus of communication with your neighbors on various items relating to security.

These are the blocks which could use Block Captains:

65th Street 800-1000 block

66th Terrace 1000 block

67th Terrace 800-1000 block

70th Street 400 block

70th Terrace 1000 block

Summit 6500 block

Valley 6500 block

Please contact Joy Crimmins at joycrimmins@msn. com or Peggy LaPierre at margaret_lapierre@us.aflac.com if you are interested in becoming a Block Captain. Thank you!

A Guide to Emergency Phone Numbers in Kansas City

3-1-1: Call the City's action Center to report potholes, missed trash collection, street lights out, malfunctioning traffic signals, water main breaks.

8-1-1: Call before starting any digging project to check on underground utility lines and cables.

9-1-1: Call for police, fire and medical emergencies, where you need a fast response. Different types of calls receive different priorities.

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Safe and Secure

by Brian Hand, Crime Prevention

In our neighborhood most of us live in beautiful, well constructed old houses. Stone foundations, solid framing, stucco, brick and stone exteriors are par for the course. All of these things make for very safe structures, but they are not without their problems as I am sure we all know.

The weak link in the construction methods of the past is the mechanical systems, such as boilers, water lines, sewer lines and electrical systems. While these systems were safe and reliable when constructed, time and use always takes its toll and good maintenance is the key to keeping them safe. The following are a few areas to watch in your older home to protect your investment and most importantly keep your family safe.

Electrical: The primary means

of electrical construction in homes of our era was knob and tube wiring. In this system single conductors were run through cavities between the structural members in walls and ceilings, with ceramic tubes forming protective channels through joists and ceramic knobs attached to the structural members to provide air between the wire and the lumber and to support the wires. While this system is actually very safe from short circuits it does not provide grounding as required by modern electrical codes. The key to keeping this system safe is to not overload your outlets or connect plugs with the round third grounding prong to adapters. Always contact an experienced electrician to modify these systems.

Plumbing: Most original waterlines in our homes are made of galvanized steel. These systems are

very reliable in their original state, but bad repairs can cause big problems. By connecting copper lines directly to steel you can cause reactions in the metals that will eventually cause failure and possibly a flood.

Another problem with age is lime buildup. While this won't cause leaks, it can cause your water pressure to be very low, particularly the hot water. Drain lines are another area where you want to pay extra attention; regular cleaning of your sewer lines can save you a lot of hassle and money from costly repairs from backups and flooding.

Heating Systems: Home heating systems such as furnaces, boilers and water heaters are powered by gas heat. While gas systems are very reliable, and some can even work while the electricity is off, there are hazards that you should protect against. The most common problem is carbon monoxide, or CO. This colorless odorless gas will displace oxygen and can lead to death. Most problems related to CO come from malfunctioning or improperly installed heating equipment. Carbon monoxide detectors should be placed in your home if you have any gas appliances.

The other problem with gas appliances is gas leaks. Gas leaks typically occur after alteration of gas lines or damage to the appliance. If you smell gas in your home leave immediately and call the gas company from a phone outside of your home.

These are some of the most common problems that we can have in our homes, but there are always others to watch out for. Reputable repair services will answer your questions about the safety of your home systems. If they don't have the time to address your concerns, you may want to consider one that will. With a little maintenance and proactive measures you can keep your family safe and secure.



Regular Bulky Item Pickup Ends Sep. 1: Call 3-1-1 for Special Pickups

Free bulky item pickup in Kansas City neighborhoods ends on September 1, as reported in the last issue of this newsletter. Following September 1 individuals can request a special collection of bulky items by contacting the City's 311 Action Center at 3-1-1 or 513-1313.

Bulky items include large appliances, furniture, lawn mowers, disassembled swing sets, metal fencing and the like. The following items do *not* qualify as bulky items: trash bags or boxes of trash, commercial or business waste including waste from home-based businesses, construction and demolition debris, piles or bags or boxes of smaller items, loose or scattered materials, or yard waste.

Residents of Armour Fields and surrounding neighborhoods can request appointments for the second Thursday of any month by making the request at least 48 hours before collection time.

Bulky items must be at the curb no earlier than 3:00 p.m. the day before the pickup day and no later than 7:00 a.m. on the pickup day. For further information on the collection rules, check online at 222.kcmo.org/trash.

It is that time of year again....

The St. Elizabeth School's Trash Bag Sale



Ends September 8

If you do not have a St. Elizabeth student on your block, please call our Trash Bag Sales Hotline.

816-523-7101 ext. 4510

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The Armour Star

The Newsy Neighbor

by Jan Flanagan

(continued from page 3)

from Missouri Southern State in Joplin. Sean Flanagan (Jim & Jan) graduated from Saint Louis University with concentrations in business and aviation. Grant Spiking (Joanie & Glenn) is a police cadet after obtaining his degree in criminal justice at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg. Charlie Caffrey (Valerie & Mark) is looking towards a medical career after graduating from American University in Washington, DC...

Colorado State grad Logan Keech (Camilla & John) begins law school this fall. He recently became engaged to longtime girlfriend and STA grad Jennilee Tangpuz. Megan Mudrick (Nancy & Greg Lear) has finished her residency in family medicine and will practice in the Washington, DC, area where her husband Jeff is doing a fellowship in consulting psychiatry. They have a one year old daughter, Emilia. Megan's mom Nancy remembers that Megan was just 20 months old when they moved to Arno Road. The Lear's younger daughter Kerry graduated from law school at Lewis and Clark and is now practicing in Portland, Oregon. Congratulations to all the new grads!...

Belated congratulations to Fred & Carol Riesmeyer who celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary recently. Double congratulations to Erica & Steve Coppinger who celebrate the births of twins Audrey Rose and Henry Joseph. They were welcomed by big sis Grace and big brother Thomas...

The June Homes Association picnic was a superb event. Great food, music, company and a balloon man made for a fun afternoon, and the pony rides put the day over the top! Neighbors of all ages found the perfect beverage and a shady spot under the tents. Kelly & Clayton Funk's young daughter requested a drink "out of the pumps" after seeing the foamy beer, but settled for a legal liquid instead...

Among those seen at tables or in the short lines were Adrienne Garrett, Kent Higman, Kathy Diamond (with her Mary, Evelyn & John), Barbara Barickman, Cynthia & Patrick Hubbard, Bob Chamberlain, Kent & Ricki Comfort, Chris & Jennifer Hansen and Janet Fuhrken. Also Mike Toohey, Bobbie Vanice, Rita Davis, Ann & Tom Toler, Lyndon Thenhaus, Gary & Natalie Fedinets, Chris & Renae Lawless, John Withrow, Dave Hildner, Jan Flores, Betty Bauers and Dixie Pollard. Kathleen Dorris was there escorting political hopeful Mary Spence around, and Jason Kander was there as well...

Our Homes Association president Dave Jensen & (continued on page 9)

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Historic Homes Tour

(continued from page 1)

take place the day of the tour. Donations are still being accepted for the free drawing.

Historic Kansas City Foundation's mission is to encourage stabilization and conservation of Kansas City's older neighborhoods; to educate the public about the historical, cultural, and economic benefits of historic pres-

ervation; to create a higher awareness to the public about Kansas City's unique architectural heritage of its built environment; and to provide opportunities to the public to become involved.

Opportunities for corporate sponsorship and 'Friends of the Tour' sponsorships are still available. Additionally, if you have a drawing item or wish to volunteer to help with the homes tour, please contact Lisa Rockley, the Executive Director at the HKCF office, at 816-931-8448 or e-mail her at lisarockley@historickansascity.org.

The Newsy Neighbor

(continued from page 8)

Vonda were there, as was past prez Doug Jackson and newsletter editor Don Dagenais. Susan & Sean Smith, Darren Fulcher, Karen & Brian Hand, Judy Hutchison, Ed & Virginia Lawless, John Berkshire, David Becker, Lynn Kowalet and Dave Hildner made their way to the delicious chicken and barbecue along with the Taylor crew of John, Janet & son John. Others visiting with friends and neighbors included John & Kelly Murphy, Steve Svadlenak, Pat & Carey Linson, Gail Clair, Jim & Julie & Tim McManus, Mary

Meisenburg, Ashley Hubbard, Eric Hunter and Nancy McClure. The annual picnic is one of the things which make our neighborhood so special. If you missed this one, be sure to mark your calendars and come next time! Events are always listed in this newsletter...

Remember...news big or small, your neighbors want to know! Call 816.333.8947 or email Jan, the Newsy Neighbor janflanagan@gmail.com and BE SURE to write Newsy Neighbor on the subject line!







Among the attractions at the Armour Fields Homes Association annual picnic in June were a fire truck and a balloon artist. The weather was perfect and many neighbors enjoyed the annual party.

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The Armour Star

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The Armour Fields Homes Association is a non-profit organization, with board and committee members who donate their time and work for the benefit of the neighborhood.



This youngster and his dad enjoyed the fire truck at our annual meeting.

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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