



The Armour Star

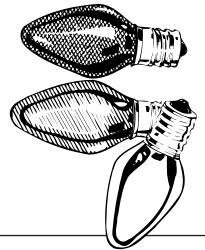
The Newsletter of the Armour Fields Homes Association
Including homes in the Armour Fields, Romanelli Gardens
and Meyer Circle Subdivisions

222 West Gregory Boulevard, Suite 201
Kansas City, MO 64114, Tel. 816/523-2440

Our security service:
Chesley Brown International
816-753-2945

November 2008

AFHA Holiday Lighting Contest is Coming Soon!



December will soon be here, and Armour Fields residents know what that means: the neighborhood Holiday Lighting Contest is just around the corner!

Many neighbors have participated in recent years, which has considerably brightened our neighborhood during the holiday season. Even those not entering the contest have increased their holiday decorations just to be part of the spirit. We hope that you will join us!

If you wish to enter your home in the contest, the rules are simple:

- 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 by focusing a light on it if necessary or putting up a special sign.

- Our judging will take place in the middle of December, so be sure that your house is lit by then, and that you place a clear sign in your yard saying “Contestant.”

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

(continued on page 2)



Oktoberfest Proves Popular with Armour Fields Adults, Kids



The Armour Fields Homes Association's first Oktoberfest party on Saturday, October 11 was a hit with both adults and children in the neighborhood. Some neighbors, as in the picture at left, came dressed for the occasion. Others, as in the other photos, just plain had fun. More photos appear on page 11.

President's Column

by Dave Jensen
President

Hello to all! Fall is upon us with the Holiday season right around the corner.

I enjoyed meeting and talking with many of you at the Octoberfest celebration. Over the next year we have many other activities planned, in the hopes of getting everyone in the neighborhood involved.



Over the next few months, keep an eye out for more information regarding a neighborhood directory. The directory will be used by the members of the neighborhood only. No information will be sold or used for any commercial uses. The directory will make it easier to keep everyone informed, not only of upcoming events, but also of any important issues directly affecting the neighborhood.

During the Holiday season keep an eye out for suspicious activity as crime statistics show there is an increase during the Holiday season. We are working closely with the security company on this issue and adjusting the patrols accordingly. The crime rate in our neighborhood has dropped significantly, so great job to Chesley Brown Security and board member in charge of security: Brian Hand.

As I write this column I can hear the leaf blowers working away. Please everyone try to keep the storm water sewers and gutters clear of leaves, as the fall showers will soon turn to snow and ice and clogged

Armour Fields Homes Tour a Success for Owners, Participants

Armour Fields Homes Association achieved a great success with the Historic Kansas City Foundation Homes Tour which was held in our neighborhood on Saturday, October 11.



sewers can lead to traffic problems and breakdown of the street surface.

Everyone needs to start planning out their holiday light displays. I was amazed at last years participation and hope this year will continue to amaze. I have been told by a tour bus operator that our neighborhood is actually a prized destination of Holiday light aficionados, and that people come from miles away to enjoy the displays, so let's not disappoint this year!

Now where did I put my twenty four foot extension ladder and first aid kit?

Happy Holidays!!

Five homes participated in the tour, and more than 150 people toured the homes over the course of the afternoon.



An air conditioned shuttle transported visitors between the homes on that day. A

drawing was also held for prizes generously donated by local merchants.

Those whose homes were featured in the tour enjoyed the experience. "Not only did you handle our house as if it was your own," one homeowner said, "but you also gave a wonderful description of our home to those who passed through. We appreciated not only being considered for the tour, but once selected the entire process from start to finish was very professional."

Thanks to all of the homeowners who participated, and to those who toured the homes. We appreciate your support.

Holiday Lighting

(continued from page 1)

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.

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!

Advertising

The Armour Star reaches about 850 homes in our neighborhood each issue, and accepts advertising at the following rates: quarter-page (size of ads on page 4): \$55 per issue or \$180 for four issues; half-page ads, \$105 for one issue, \$370 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 crisp crunch of fallen leaves is giving way to the shivering of icy winds, making morning walks a bit bracing. Still, it's great to be in the neighborhood!...

Fickle Midwestern weather showed favor to Halloween this year. Warm temps and a weekend night made for great trick or treating. Thanks to all who made our neighborhood extra fun once again with special décor, including the many blow-up characters on Romany Road. An out of town guest was delighted by all the holiday sights, although the giant spiders adorning some rooftops made her shudder!...

Pennsylvania Street was extra eerie Halloween night as the cemetery in Judy & Pete Hutchison's yard segued into a frightening maze next door at Michele & Mike Markham's. Creatures lurked about in the fog, strobe lights flashed, scary sounds chilled the bones and evil things jumped out at wary visitors. Friends and neighbors including Shelley & Paul Migliazzo helped put on the awesome show...

More neighborhood spookiness was on exhibit at Jane & Tim Aylward's 67th Terrace graveyard, inspiring many drive-by visitors. Vicki Silverman on Edgevale reported over 300 trick or treaters, perhaps attracted by the light-up Halloween car outside. She was especially tickled with one little boy. Vicki asked the 4-year-old if he liked their cat's Halloween costume – that the cat was dressed up as a big dog. The boy studied the Silverman's large shepherd-mix puppy and was amazed at how REAL the "cat's" costume appeared, so Vicki had to let him in on the joke...

Among other costumed youngsters spotted that night were adorable witches Annabelle & Lidia Valenti accompanied by mom Leslie and aunt Jeanne, herself dressed as a witch. (Grandparents are Valerie & Mark Caffrey.) Carolyn Bock was carried by dad Mike as the wee Minnie Mouse visited a few houses with him and mom Karen. The Shramek twins Maddie & Anna (parents are Joanie & Tim) were dressed to scare as an alien and a skeleton. Fran Lester wore a tall witch hat as she escorted ethereal fairy princess Amelia and darling son Philip...

Hattie Sigler (Linda & Andrew) was singer/actor Miley Cyrus while her friend Liz Barton was alter ego Hannah Montana. Sophie Vaughn participated in her first Halloween as a Chinese empress. Parents Mary & David adopted the 28-month old from China just last year. Katie Wiedeman (Fifi & Reeves) dressed as Peter Pan's friend Tinkerbelle...

Summit residents enjoyed grilling hot dogs and brats together before heading out for an evening of treats, and some joined up for fellowship again later. They included Michelle & Andy McQue, Betsy Medina, Mary & Tom Deacy and Molly & John Weir. The Weir boys had a big night. Liam, 3, was a ninja and his brother Jake, 2, was Batman. The Coppinger family (Erica & Steve) was well represented by Batman Thomas, princess Grace and 6-month-old twins Henry & Aubrey. Sam Smith (Sylvia & Chuck) was Batgirl while sis Jacque reincarnated Sally Fields as the flying nun. Four-year-old Lily Barr (Sheila & Therron) was a princess, while

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 & Jane Fee
6519 Valley Road
Ryan & Cheryl Poage
404 West Dartmouth
Bruce Stahl
444 West Dartmouth
Kevin & Katherine Easton
1005 West 66th Terrace
John R. Phillips
635 West 67th Street
Heather Copeland &
Francisco Najera
409 West 67th Terrace
Michael McCoy &
Hillary Everist
1011 West 69th Terrace
Earl Minnis
425 West 70th Street
Glen Stroer & Rachel Wedel
604 Romany Road
Peter & Lynn Sattelmair
635 Romany Road
James Anderst
628 West 70th Terrace
Raymond & Susan Sonnenberg
661 West 70th Terrace
Dean & Jennifer Best
1014 West 70th Terrace

brother Henry, 2, opted for Disney's tow truck Mater...

Another flying nun came by, also known as Molly Byrd, age 9. More "double your fun" as 2-year-olds Lucy & Lola Kramer (Sheila & Mark) were Jayhawk cheerleaders. Kelley &
(continued on page 6)

What to Do About Deteriorating Properties

Our neighbors in the Armour Fields Homes Association may have noticed that a few of our properties may have been vacated due to the difficult economic times, and perhaps are not being as well kept as they might be. Homes that are abandoned or unoccupied, or homes which are in serious disrepair, can be of particular concern, of course.

If you are interested in maintaining neighborhood property values, and if you have concerns about the upkeep and condition of a home in your area, you can complain to the City. To initiate a complaint process, call the Neighborhood Preservation Division, (816) 513-9010. Keep in mind that the City has many such complaints pending now, and there is no guarantee of swift action, but dramatic cases are being addressed as time and resources permit.

If there is a possible code violation on a property, you can call the 3-1-1 Action Center of the City Manager's Office, (816) 513-1313 or 311. Typically an issue can be resolved through this process, but it does take time. For details on the resolution process, visit <http://www.kcmo.org> and search for "code violations".

The Armour Fields Homes Association has no obligation to maintain properties, of course, but the board members are concerned about any deteriorating properties so you can feel free to talk with any member of the board of directors (see list on back page of this newsletter) about any particular properties.

A Note From Your Block Captains

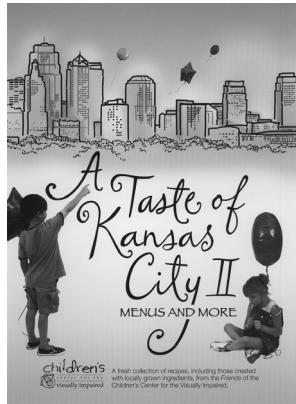
by Joy Crimmins & Peggy LaPierre, Block Captain Co-Chairs

A special thank you goes out to all the Block Captains who attended the fall meeting at Aixois on November 6. Your interest in improving our neighborhood through the investment of your time is appreciated!

JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

The Children's Center for the Visually Impaired's new cookbook:

A Taste of Kansas City II, Menus and More



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Safe and Secure



by Brian Hand
Crime Prevention

It is getting to be that time of year again, where lights sparkle, Nativities are set up, garland is hung and criminals start looking for new targets. But your house does not have to be one of the targets.

There are several things that you can do to protect your home during this holiday season.

The first thing to do is audit the exterior of your home for lighting. There are things that you can do to ensure that your lighting fills your needs without being overwhelming.

Lights should be placed to illuminate areas of access to your home like doors and low windows. Dusk to dawn sensors can turn the lights on for you automatically.

Motion detectors are a good option if you do not want to illuminate the area all night. There are some good low cost screw in motion detectors and dusk to dawn sensors if you don't want the hassle of having new lights installed. If you are "going green" with compact fluorescent bulbs (see article on page 9), make sure you get sensors that are compatible.

Another important thing to remember is to eliminate hiding places, if you have high bushes it can be easy for a criminal to have concealment when trying to enter.

Keeping hedges trimmed back can make your house a less welcoming target.

Don't put your valuables on display, leaving blinds and curtains open in the evening hours can make you a target. Drive by your house in the dark and take a look at what you are showing. It may surprise you what everyone can see. You can decide at that point if you need to cover the windows or even rearrange the furniture.

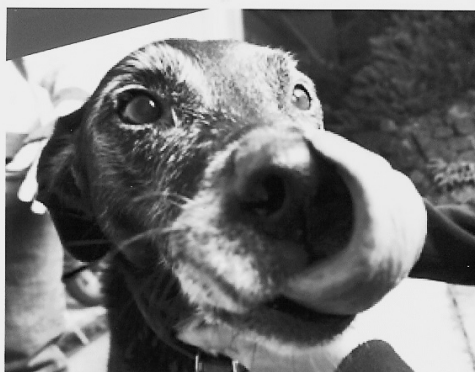
And at the risk of getting myself in trouble...it may even give you that reason to redecorate!

It is tempting in the winter months to put your trash out the night before to avoid that cold morning walk to the curb, especially if you have lots of large boxes. I've said it in past issues, but it bears repeating; if you must put that large box out, break it down, turn it inside out, and put it out the morning of the pickup. That way you won't be advertising to criminals who want to shop from your living room.

Armour Fields Homes Association is here to help you with your security needs the holiday season also. We will be increasing security patrols and watching activities closer than ever.

Don't forget, if you are going out of town on vacation call our security service, Chesley Brown (see phone number on the first page of this newsletter) and they can set up a special watch on your home for you!

Have a great holiday season and stay Safe and Secure!



A reminder about agent service.

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The Newsy Neighbor

by Jan Flanagan

(continued from page 3)

Clayton Funk's youngsters Addison and Hudson dressed as a dragon and a pirate. Kelley's sister Kristie Kienstric and her 18-month-old daughter came from Springfield and joined in the fun as well. The Ginoux sisters Annie, Jenna and Elizabeth were spirited cheerleaders. Their parents are Christina & Greg on 66th Terrace...

Seven-year-olds Michael & Matthew Donnellan (Phil & Judy) made the rounds as a Wizards soccer player and Luke Skywalker. Joe Taylor, 9, (Amy & Tom) prayerfully trick or treated in priestly garb. Meanwhile Sam Nolton, 9, (Naura & Carnie) played the part of a hobo. Emma Lisac, 12, (Julie & Mike) was a fairy. Emily Coble, 12, (Catherine & Tony) reportedly was Umpaloompa while

sister Molly, 9, was a hillbilly. And little Madeline Sallee, 2, (Sally & Matt) was a precious lion. Courtney & Mark Sonnenberg had Grant, 2, a pirate and 3-month-old Crews, a giraffe. Mary Heiman (Cathy & John) won "most original" costume at an 8th grade party. She was dressed as a present, complete with a big bow in her hair...

Although it may look like a costume (or the result of a rough night out) the big lampshade worn by Earl, Fifi & Reeves Wiedeman's dog, is neither. The lab/retriever mix has a leg wound that the collar prevents him from licking. The wound may have come from a nasty spider. And if that isn't scary enough, consider Lynn & Chris Correa. Their son Seth recently

portrayed infamous serial killer Bob Berdella in a movie filmed here. The film may be released sometime next year...

WINE is a new Brookside store opened by Andrea Bough. Situated next to the post office, the shop will hold wine tastings. Visit www.brooksidewine.com for more info...

Barbara Roche is looking forward to a Thanksgiving visit from granddaughters Sadie Rose and Amelia Higgins. They will provide a welcome distraction after both she and husband Tom have been recovering from surgeries...

Belated birthday wishes to Jim Neihart. Colleagues surprised him with a party for his big 8-0...

Wedding bells got a workout at Julie & Jim McManus' residence. Son Kevin married Alex Couchonnal in July and daughter Mary Bridget wed Clint Taylor at St. Peter's in October. Both siblings are lawyers in town...

(continued on page 7)

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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

The Newsy Neighbor

(continued from page 6)

Reeves (Tom) Wiedeman (Fifi & Reeves) graduated from Boston College this past spring and is writing for the Chronicles of Higher Education in Washington, DC. He now uses his given name Reeves. His parents recall sitting near Tim Russert at graduation ceremonies, just a few weeks before the journalist's death. Brother Sam Wiedeman is a sophomore at American University in DC. He was in town this fall competing for a spot in American Idol, and made it to the 2nd round!...

Congratulations to Sean Svadlenak (Jean & Steve). The junior at Temple University received a first place for web design awarded by the Department of Broadcast, Telecommunications and Mass Media...

T.J. Max (Sheryl & Brad) saw things up close this past election. The 18-year-old Pembroke student was selected as an exit poll interviewer, something normally reserved for older persons...

A portion of proceeds from the November 13-15 open house at Waldo gift shop Hiles Two was designated for Bill Hiles Lung Cancer Research. Bill is missed by wife Julia and friends on Romany Road...

Also, kudos to Catherine Kuhls, co-chair of the BonFIRE fundraiser aiding inclusive religious education for children with special needs...

Congratulations to Melodie Powell & Jerry Short. The pair celebrated their 25th anniversary with a trip to Rome and Tuscany – but were sure to schedule it around MU home games!...

Kudos as well to neighborhood lawyers rated as "Super Lawyers" in KC magazine. They include Jim Betterman (Lathrop & Gage), Stephen Bough, John Hayob (Brown &

Dunn), Tim Aylward (Horn Aylward & Bandy) and Don Dagenais (Lathrop & Gage.)...

Are you ready for Santa? He will be appearing in person at the New Dime Store on Saturday, November 15, 9-11 am; Sunday, November 23, 1-3 pm; Thursday, December 11, 6-8 pm. Bring your cameras for pictures with the jolly one...

Looking for gift ideas? Anyone with connections to Rockhurst High will love the new book containing 100 years of stories, photos and history, along with great recipes submitted by Rockhurst families, including the famous Sale-O-Rama Chili! Order online at www.rockhursths.edu or contact Jan Flanagan 333-8947...

Deepest gratitude to this month's tipsters! You can be one, too. Remember, news big or small, your neighbors want to know. Send info to Jan, the Newsy Neighbor at janflanagan@kc.rr.com or call 333-8947.



SAVE THESE DATES FOR EXTRAORDINARY CHRISTMAS MUSIC

- Dec. 14: Chancel Choir, Children's Choir & instruments presenting Hal Hopson's Cantata *Come Ye Faithful, A Service of Carols* at 10:45 am
- Dec. 16: Country Club's Concert Series presents Bach's *Magnificat* with UMKC's Collegium Vocale Conservatory of Music students, & orchestra at 7:30 pm
- Dec. 24: Special Christmas Eve service at 5:30 pm

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The City of Kansas City has scheduled its fall yard waste pick-up days for Friday, November 14 and Thursday, December 11 for the Armour Fields area. Of course, the November 14 date will be past by the time you get this news- letter, but keep

the December 11 date in mind. Your bags of yard waste should be set out by your curb by 7:00 a.m. that day.

Remember that there is a 20-bag limit for bags or bundles of yard waste. The materials should be in paper bags only (no plastic), and brush should be bundled in sizes of no larger than 4 feet by 2 feet, tied with twine only (no tape). No regular trash will be picked up on those days.

If your items are not picked up within 24 hours, you can call the City action line at 3-1-1 to make a report.

For further information, check the City's web site at www.kcmo.org/trash.

Armour Fields Plans Neighborhood Directory

The board of directors of the Armour Fields Homes Association is working with the Homes Associations of the Country Club District (HAC-CD) to compile a neighborhood directory.

Please look for information about this forthcoming directory with your dues and security fee letter in the near future.

Residents continue to ask us for this resource, so we are requesting your assistance. Please provide as much or as little information as you wish. Local residents and businesses may also purchase advertising space in the directory. Our goal is to have the directory published and distributed by the end of the year.

FAMILY DENTAL CARE

Carla King, D.D.S.

315 N. Nichols Road
Suite 217

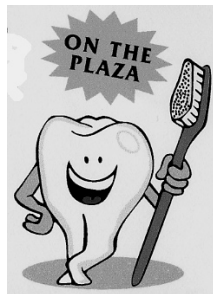
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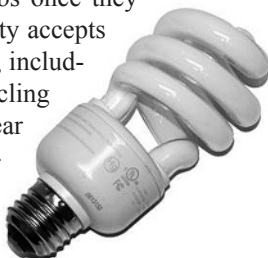
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Using CFL Light Bulbs

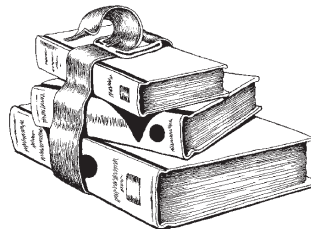
Switching from traditional incandescent light bulbs to compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs is an effective and simple change that we can all make to use less electricity and help prevent greenhouse gas emissions. CFL's use up to 75 percent less electricity, last ten times longer, and can help our environment.

However, there are some things you should know about CFL's. One is that they contain a small amount of mercury in the glass tubing, so be careful if the bulb is dropped or broken. Sweep up -- don't vacuum -- a broken bulb.

Likewise, recycle all CFL bulbs once they do burn out. The City of Kansas City accepts CFL bulbs at its recycling locations, including the Bannister Community Recycling Center at 91st and Hillcrest Road, near the old Bannister Mall shopping center. If you must throw a bulb away, put it in two plastic bags.



Armour Fields Book Club




Susan Smith of the Armour Fields Homes Association board of directors is announcing the formation of a new Armour Fields book club.

"A book is always better if you have someone to share it with," she says. "What could be better than sharing it with a group of friends and neighbors who have read it, too?"

If you love to read, then Susan invites you to join the Armour Fields Book Club. The first book club meeting will take place in January. Contact Susan at 816-268-4270, or send her an e-mail at smkim2@yahoo.com.

This newsletter will also print further information about times and locations of book club meetings. Happy reading!



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Nighborhood Reminders

- ▶ Are there any leftover signs in your lawn that no longer serve a purpose, such as painting or contractor signs or political signs? Your fall yard cleaning is a good time to take them down and help beautify our neighborhood!
- ▶ If you are about to dig a hole, please call 8-1-1 to check for underground utilities before sticking that spade in the ground. In its ever to make its bureaucracy more management, Missouri has introduced a simplified process for checking the location of utilities. This number will connect you to a central clearing house for any site in the state.
- ▶ Beware of solicitors or salesmen in the neighborhood who may actually be casing your houses for future burglaries. These salesmen often are peddling alarm systems, phone systems and satellite television services. Many offer "free installation" with "low monthly fees." One recent group, posing as cable technicians, notified residents not to be alarmed if strangers were in their back yards; the announcement proved to be an attempt to clear the way for a series of back-door burglaries. While some salespeople are legitimate, be careful and report any suspicious activity to the Kansas City police department. Also, a "No Soliciting" sign may help.

You Can Drop Off Leaves and Brush at City Facility

If you have more leaves than the City pickup (see page 8) or your private leaf pickup service can handle, consider dropping them off at the City's leave and brush facility just south of I-470 on Raytown Road.

Each Kansas City residence may drop off up to five leaf and brush sacks at no charge per week. For each bag beyond the five bag limit, a \$1 fee is charged. Residents must show proof of residency.

Each residence is also allowed two no-charge drop-off loads per year that are bed-level of a pickup truck or below. (The equivalent of three cubic yards.)

No-charge loads can be brought in cars, vans, trucks or trailers, they are not to exceed three cubic yards. Additional loads can be dropped off at \$10 per load.

For further information, see the City's web site at www.kcmo.org, under "Neighborhoods" and "Trash and Recycling."

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64119

Fund Raising Underway for Wornall Columns

by Sadie Johnson

In an effort to repair the historic brick columns at Meyer Boulevard and Wornall Road, the Greenway Fields Homes Association has launched an aggressive fundraising campaign to help offset the costs for the project. Greenway Fields has done so even though the columns are not within its association boundaries.

Katie Allison, a representative of the Greenway Fields Homes Association, reports that the organization submitted a PIAC (Public Improvement Advisory Committee) request to the City of Kansas City, of which \$26,500 was received in May of this year. In addition, some other private donations have been made.

The columns are traditionally the responsibility of the Kansas City Parks & Recreation Department, but with

budget shortfalls, no money could be allotted for the project. In order to adequately repair the crumbling brick and iron work, it is estimated that costs could range from \$45,000 to \$90,000, leaving at the very least a \$12,000 to \$15,000 shortfall.

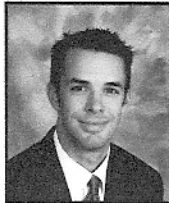
Greenway Fields Homes Association is asking residents in neighboring homes associations for private contributions. The Brookside Merchants Association and some of our sister homes associations have also made contributions.

Contributions by check are payable to Board of Parks & Recreation Commission for Meyer Columns, 4600 East 63rd St., Kansas City, Mo. 64130.

(This article reprinted courtesy of the Armour Hills Homes Association.)

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A German band (above) and ponies for riding were among the attractions at the Armour Fields Oktoberfest Festival on Saturday, October 11.

Thanks to AFHA board member Susan Smith for making Oktoberfest possible!



**Armour Fields Homes Association
Board of Directors**

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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.

The Armour Fields Homes Association web site needs your help.

If there is a web developer in the neighborhood who would like to donate his or her time and services, we would love to hear from you. Please contact any member of the homes association board of directors, shown to the left.

Thank you!

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