

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

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May 2009

You are invited to the

Armour Fields Homes Association Annual Meeting

Sunday, June 14, 2009 2:30 p.m. Annual Meeting 3:00 p.m. Festivities Begin Romanelli Island 69th and Wornall Road

We will have a short business meeting before the fun begins. This is a family event. Join your neighbors and have a great time!

AFHA Meets Bourbon Street

Jambalaya, Red Beans 'n Rice, Festive Drinks, Jazz, and more! BAM!!





The Easter Bunny was aprowl on the Ward Parkway Island at the Armour Fields Easter Egg Hunt on April 4. When out of costume he bore a striking resemblance to AFHA president Dave Jensen, shown here with a skilled egg hunter.

Another Easter Egg hunt photo appears on page 2.

Mark your calendar for the 2nd annual Armour Fields Oktoberfest! Sunday, Sep. 26!

Do You Have a Lawn Sprinkler System or Pool?

Kansas City, Missouri residents who own lawn sprinkler systems or in-ground swimming pools will soon be receiving letters from the Backflow Prevention Division of the Kansas City Water Services Department.

These letters will notify residents that all lawn sprinkler systems and in-ground pools are required to have a backflow prevention assembly, and to have it inspected annually by a blackflow prevention tester who has been certified by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

This test is required by a 1998 city ordinance.

Those not receiving a letter can call the backflow prevention unit at

513-1313 to request an inspection form, or download it at www.kcmo.org/water (click on Information Links then Backflow Prevention then Backflow Resource Center).

On completion of a test showing that the assembly is performing satisfactorily, the certified tester is to complete a test and maintenance report form and forward it to the backflow prevention unit. The letter gives a deadline for this report. If the unit fails the test, the resident will need to make appropriate repairs and have the assembly retested and certified. If a homeowner fails to meet these obligations, water service to the property may be discontinued.

The purpose of the program is to ensure the quality of safe drinking water in the city.

President's Column

by Dave Jensen President

Spring has finally sprung and the lawn mowers are again revving up along with the flowers and gardens. I look forward to the upcoming summer season.

Again we have planned numerous activities this year including the annual meeting and picnic in June, the newly formed book club, and



the hopeful reemergence of the DIY club. In addition, we plan on hosting the second annual fall festival later in the year.

There are also a number of new activities we will be unveiling during the upcoming year. I urge all of you to come and participate in any of the neighborhood events and show your support of the neighborhood. It's a great opportunity to meet and engage with others throughout the homes association.

Plans and the beginning phases are underway for the Ward Parkway Island rejuvenation project. Preliminary plans include the installation of security and accent lighting. Please excuse the mess as work progresses. We continue to work with the city of Kansas City, Missouri for support with the project. The ultimate goal of the project is to have a second island, in addition to Romanelli Island, that is both safe and aesthetically pleasing for the whole neighborhood to

enjoy, and a venue for hosting certain special events. At times it seems the wheels of progress move slowly, but the important thing is that they are now moving.

This past year, issues have arisen concerning building additions and homeowner renovation projects. Please keep in mind that these projects have impacts both positive, and potentially negative, on the overall ambience and spirit of the neighborhood. Ultimately, we all are neighbors and have chosen to live in one of the most vibrant neighborhoods in the city, and need to be respectful to all. We continue to monitor all building projects on the periphery, as the city of Kansas City has the ultimate responsibility for issuance of building permits and code enforcement throughout the neighborhood and the city of Kansas City.

Shown on page 4 of this issue is a 2009 budget breakdown for the upcoming year along with an explanation of each expense line item. The budget is solely based on homeowners and security dues collected. I am proud to point out that despite the rising cost of

living and the poor financial markets, homeowners and security dues have not increased for the past four years. The Armour Fields board continues to do "more with less" each year and we appreciate everyone's input and support.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the annual meeting and picnic in June. Again as always, if there is anything I or any member of the board can do to help, do not hesitate to contact us.



Caught in the spirit of competitive fun at the Easter Egg Hunt last April 4 were these two brothers, having a friendly (?) rivalry in the hunt for candy.

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Advertising

The Armour Star reaches about 850 homes in our neighborhood each issue, and accepts advertising at the following rates: Size of the ad on this page: \$30 per issue or \$105 for four issues. Quarter page ads (such as ads on page 7) are \$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.

The Newsy Neighbor



by Jan Flanagan

Flowers, green grass, trees leafing out – it's another beautiful Spring in the neighborhood!... Providing a cheery beginning to the season, dozens of youngsters, many in Easter finery, met at the Ward Parkway island on a sunny afternoon for a homes association egg hunt organized by Susan Smith and Joy Crimmins. Easter Bunny himself (Dave Jensen) showed up to make sure the stroller set found all the candy and treats...

Carrie Madden was looking to see if perhaps the Bunny had thought to hide a bottle of wine or two for the older crowd. She was there with her Molly, age 8, and Ali, 6, as well as nieces and nephew from St. Louis Anna, 9, Luke, 7, and Grace, 6. Homes Association board members Christine DiMartino, Brian Hand and Gail Clair were there enjoying the beautiful day as they helped out...

Diane & Bart Halverston brought Lauren, 6. Grandma Sharon & Grandpa Jay Jenkins were enjoying their granddaughter Emily Gibson, 6. Kelli & Kim had 7-year-old William and



3-year-old Christian in tow. Tricia McGhie was watching the hunting abilities of her Elise, 7, and Brynne, 4, together with her niece from Lincoln, Nebraska, Katherine, 8. Tricia & Andrew live on 66th Street...

Tom & Spring Duncan came with Maggie, 7. Carey Linson was with Sammy, 7, and Molly, 2. Stacy Phippen-Oetting and hubby Greg watched over Lisle, 2. Jason Ormiston & Beth Foster were there with a crew including their 4½- year-old twins Graham and Naomi and grandparents Bob & Pru Ormiston from Columbia, Missouri...

Coming from Dallas, Texas was LeaAnn Boylan, with David, 4, and Lauren, 6 months. Carla & Ryan Coleman helped hunt for the sweet treasures with Kate, 5, Hank, 3, and Grace 1½... Pat Dunn watched over Mary Cate, 17 months. Karen Bock was trying to corral Caroline, 21 months, and nephews Harry, 6, and Will, 2. Jenny Erdman had an easier time with Gus, 7, Audrey, 5, and Phinney Sachs, 7...

Lorie Whitaker was supervising Catie, 8, Carolyn, 6, and Nicholas Franano, 3. Rick & Kourtney Honan were at their first event since moving to 68th Terrace (400 block.) Their Gavin, 3, and Suzanne, 1, seemed to enjoy the event, as did the others searching for treats or socializing with neighbors...

Are you interested in being part of the homes association board? They make things happen in the neighborhood. The president and the secretary are elected each June at the annual picnic meeting. If you would like to submit your name, please call to get

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!

C. Bradlev Baker

600 West 67th Street Jerome Bodenhamer 1005 West 67th Street Joseph & Laura Roberts 808 West 67th Terrace Scott & Sara Schibig 417 West 68th Street Joshua Walker 439 West 69th Street Scott & Laura Moore 640 West 69th Terrace Janet Snyder 1027 West 69th Terrace John Sheldon 6915 Edgevale James & Eileen Harrington 634 West 70th Terrace

your name on the ballot. Talk to a current officer (listed on the back of this newsletter) for details...

Hisses & Hurrahs: Hisses to grass clippings left on sidewalks for walkers and runners to slip upon. Same goes for mud and the wicked sweetgum balls. Hurrah for the cheery daffodils lining the parkway on 66th Street from Valley to Ward Parkway...

Brightening days on 68th Terrace (400 block) is Florence Anelle Morehouse. Born January 2 to Maria & Eric, Anelle joined siblings Aliya, 11, Garrett, 7, and Emmie, 3. Maria & Eric are both architects and Maria (continued on page 5)

Explanations of expenditures:

Block Captains: Money used for continuation and support of the block captain program.

Administration: Money paid to HACCD per month for its services, including management of quarterly dues and collections.

Annual Meeting: Funding for the annual meeting, being held at the Romanelli fountain in June. This includes food, drink, tents, and entertainment.

Insurance: Coverage for all the public spaces and items located within them.

Legal: Covers legal fees if outside counsel is needed to collect delinquent dues or assist in other legal matters.

Parks and Island Maintenance: Upkeep of all the parks and Off islands including tree maintenance and snow removal. Will include seasonal and annual plantings.

Capital Improvements: Development of new projects throughout the neighborhood.

Fountains: Upkeep and maintenance of all fountains.

Postage: Covers costs of all mailings of bills and newsletters. **Social activities:** Covers costs of special events held throughout

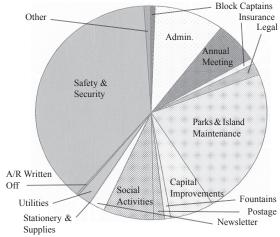
the year.

Newsletter: Covers costs of printing of newsletter.

Stationery and Supplies: Covers costs of any supplies needed by board to function.

Utilities: Covers the electric and water bills for the parks and

Armour Fields Homes Association Budget Breakdown 2009-2010

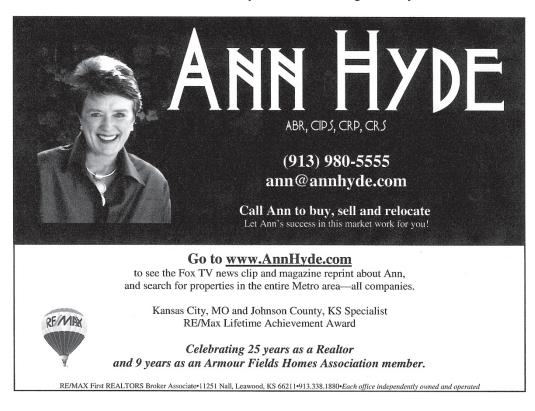


islands. Includes lights, fountain pumps, and sprinkler system.

A/R Written off: Dues and debts that are not able to be collected.

Safety & Security: Money paid for security services.

Other: Miscellaneous expenses unexpected throughout the year.



The Newsy Neighbor

by Jan Flanagan

(continued from page 3)

runs her own firm from their home. Aliya & Garrett attend St. Peter's school. Welcome!...

Kudos to Amelia Lester (Fran & Matt.) The Visitation 6th grader was chosen to participate in the fundraiser Art for Arthritis. Amelia worked with professional artist Anastacia Drake to create a painting for an auction at Union Station. The 12-year-old, who has arthritis, was depicted dancing, her red hair flying. Alison Dagenais (Pat & Don) has been studying in Marseilles, France this semester. The French and anthropology major is a junior at Grinnell College...

St. Pat's excitement came to 68th Terrace as 15 bright and shiny Corvettes lined up in readiness for the Brookside St. Patrick's Day parade. Hosting the group for pre-parade festivities were Chico & Sharon Menendez, longtime Corvette Club members...

Mizzou vet student Zach Miller (Holly & R.B.) was pictured in a KC STAR magazine article "Animal ER: 24

X

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www.sheltontravel.com e-mail address: info@sheltontravel.com hours at the Mission Med Vet." Surgeon Eric Wilson was doing a bone biopsy on a labrador in the picture featuring Zach...

Hollywood (almost) came to 67th Terrace. The residence of Maureen & Chris Hinken was the site for the filming of a bank commercial. Film crew vehicles lined both sides of the street for most of the day and big lights brightened the set. Daughter Erin was home for the event. Her sister Colleen was just back from Africa. Younger sis Maura is a junior at St. Teresa's...

Dixie Pollard has been on the go this spring. She accompanied daughter Cynthia's family to Nashville where they enjoyed good food and good music. She made college-visit road trips, helping granddaughter Caroline as the SME junior evaluates possibilities. And she joined friends on a trip to Turkey and Greece, following in St. Paul's footsteps. Her kitties and neighbors are glad to have her back home...

Also returning from abroad is Valerie Caffrey. She was part of a choral group from Visitation parish who toured and sang in Italy. Welcome back!...

We mourn the recent passing of two longtime residents. Edna Dooley of Arno Road lived in the neighborhood for over 40 years. She was active at William Jewell College and Second Presbyterian Church. Edna is survived by her husband George and missed by many neighbors. Jack Headley lived on 68th Terrace (600 block), also for *(continued on page 6)*

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The Newsy Neighbor

(continued from page 5)

over 40 years, and raised daughters Nancy, Peggy and Carol there with wife Nadine. Jack was a former city councilman and member of the Board of Police Commissioners. He could be counted on to bring a giant box of McLain's Bakery cookies to block parties and is fondly remembered. Our condolences to the families and friends of Edna and Jack...

Don't miss out: In addition to the usual news, remember to send in grade school, high school and college graduation/jobs information for the next issue! Call or email Jan, The Newsy Neighbor, 333-8947. jflanagan76@kc.rr.com (BE SURE to write Newsy Neighbor on the subject line!)

Red Light Camera Operating at 79th & Wornall Intersection

The City of Kansas City, Missouri has extended its red light camera program to the intersection at 79th and Wornall Road. Red light cameras are also presently in effect at the intersections of 39th and 27th and Southwest Trafficway, 63rd and Prospect, 39th and Main, and 19th and Walnut Streets.

A violation occurs when a motorist enters an intersection after the light has turned red. The camera records the license plate of the offending driver, who is automatically sent a ticket. The fine is \$100 per violation

The program is intended to encourage safe driving, and is funded entirely by the fines collected. Any

additional revenue generated is to go towards city services.

City transportation engineers selected the targeted intersections as being the most likely to have an immediate impact in reducing accidents. Eventually the City hopes to reduce intersection accidents by 40% through this program.

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Safe and Secure

by Brian Hand, Crime Prevention

With warmer weather coming I wanted to talk about summer project safety. I know you are looking forward to working on all your summertime projects. As a safety professional I work every day with hazards that require protective equipment, and those hazards exist when working on home improvement projects as well as on a construction site.

Whether working in the yard or doing repair work there are a few simple items to keep handy that can help you to protect yourself. Protective equipment like safety glasses, earplugs and gloves are a really good start. These items are important when working with lawn equipment and most power tools.

Yard work like mowing and trimming is no day at the beach, so why dress like it? Crocs, flip-flops and shorts provide no protection from flying debris so consider long pants and durable boots (steel toes are best). Remember it is important to keep kids and pets out of the area when using this equipment!

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Barbara Roche, CRS and GRI Senior Marketing Representative

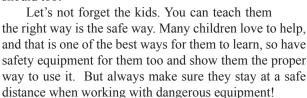
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When using saws and other power tools make sure you keep guards in place, protect your eyes with safety glasses, and your ears with plugs. Professionals use safety equipment, and you should too!



Finally, I want to stress the importance of prior planning. Always develop a plan and sequence for each project you are working on. If you take it one step at a time, identify each hazard and how to protect against it.

Security Update: There were several burglaries in ours and neighboring associations that were being carried out by a couple of felons. Thanks to the hard work of the Police Department, Chesley Brown Security, and watchful neighbors, they are now out of business and behind bars. We need to make sure that we keep our eyes open and our guard up, for the harder the target we make ourselves, the less enticing we are to criminals.

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Win Sustainable Landscaping!

Dreamscape Makeover 2009 Contest Being Held

Keep Kansas City Beautiful (KKCB), a local nonprofit organization, is conducting its second annual Dreamscape Makeover contest. Entrants may win a \$10,000 sustainable landscape.

A sustainable garden features indigenous and drought-resistant plants that thrive despite the temperature swings, high winds and



uneven rainfalls in our region. These gardens conserve natural resources, create and attractive environment and require minimal fertilizer, pesticides and water.

Native plants have deep roots that increase water infil-

tration in the soil. Rain gardens collect excess storm water and help prevent overflows of city storm water/sewer systems. Sustainable gardens also attract butterflies, hummingbirds, and produce unique beauty.

The winner of the 2009 Dreamscape Makeover will work with Michael Ashley & Associates to create a custom landscape design for the owner's property. Materials and installation are contributed by GKCB partners Audrie Seeley & Co., Prairie and Wetland Center, Family Tree Nursery, Missouri Organic, House of Rocks and AGrand Ecofertilization.



it's so U! is all about YOU! Your style, your wardrobe and how to use them to your best advantage! Let a personal consultation from wardrobe stylist Jennifer Niehouse of it's so U! re-vision the way you look at your closet. Jennifer will help you define your personal style and share updated, creative dressing ideas that fit your lifestyle and body type. She'll also develop great new looks and outfits using clothes and accessories you already own.

it's so U! also helps employers and your company **redefine "appropriate" office wear** by educating your employees on how inappropriate dress affects your company's image in the marketplace. Don't let "business casual" mean you're casual about business.



The Brookside Farmers Community Market is open at 63rd Street and Wornall Road each Saturday morning from 8:00 to 1:00 p.m. Shown here on a recent Saturday morning are shoppers looking for produce, plants and baked goods.



1,500 tickets for the contest are available between March 26 and July 1.To enter the contest, KCCB suggests a donation of \$25 per ticket, or 5 tickets for \$100. No purchase is necessary. Ticket order request forms are available online at www.kkcb.org. Call 816-561-1 086 to get more information.

Keep Kansas City Beautiful was formed in May 2000 as an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful and Bridging The Gap to work in partnership with citizens, businesses and government in creating a cleaner and more beautiful metropolitan Kansas City.

Would you like to have your name listed in the upcoming Armour Fields homeowners' directory? If you haven't submitted your information yet, it is due now at the Homes Association for the Country Club District (HACCD) office, or by calling 523-2440.

Armour Fields Gets Neighborhood Trash Cans as Gift

Four trash receptacles that been installed in the Armour Fields neighborhood.

These trash receptacles were a *gratis* gift from the City of Kansas City for all of the hard work and support the neighborhood and the Armour Fields Homes Association board of directors showed with its long-delayed Romanelli Island project, which was finally completed last summer after years of neighborhood perseverance.

The receptacles were placed strategically on the north, south, east, and west ends of the neighborhood. Future plans are to blend some receptacles with landscaping.

There were some problems initially with keeping the receptacles emptied, but our garden island contractor, Rosehill Nurseries, has resolved the problem and will strive to keep the receptacles serviced regularly.



Your Neighborhood Yard Waste Collector

> 444-4050 P.O. Box 25246 Kansas City, MO 64119

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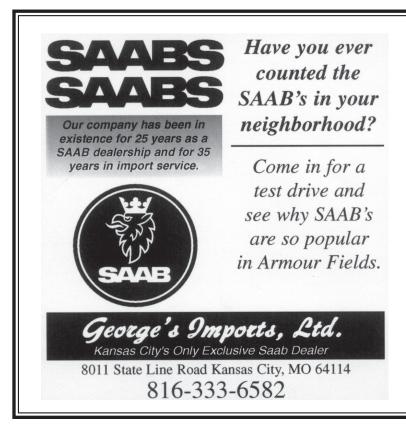
The trash receptacles are for light trash only. The Armour Fields board asks you to limit the amount of doggie-doo being deposited and to seal or tie any plastic bags holding the deposits. Also, please keep them free of regular household trash; these are for general neighborhood use only.

With regular service and limiting the doggie-doo, the trash receptacles should have no odor or rodent issues as concerns have been voiced by some.

The amount of trash already collected shows that the receptacles are a much needed addition in efforts to beautify the neighborhood and keep our environment green. Thank for helping!



An April snowfall in Kansas City left our lawns unexpectedly covered with one last cover of snowflakes, and led a number of enterprising neighborhood youngsters to create snow people. Unfortunately, this poor fellow on 69th Street didn't last long.



President

Treasurer

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.

Any residents of Kansas City wishing to have a block certified for the Block Watch program, including posting of the familiar Block Watch signs to discourage burglars, may attend a free training session on Thursday, June 25 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Trailside FOCUS Center, 9901 Holmes Road, Kansas City, Missouri.

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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