



The Armour Star

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

4200 Somerset, Suite 216,
Prairie Village, KS 66208, Tel. 913-385-2440

November 2009

Our security service:
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Holiday Lighting Contest is Coming Up!

The Armour Fields Holiday Lighting Contest is just around the corner! Our lighting contest considerably brightens our neighborhood during the holiday season. We hope that you will join us! 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 on December 11, so be sure that your house is lit that night.

Judging is done on the basis of overall theme/organization, originality, complexity/detail, and variation/use of color. Armour Fields will give awards for Best of Show, Most Elaborate, Most Original, Most Colorful, and Honorable Mention. There is also an award for 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!

Armour Fields Annual Oktoberfest Enjoyed by All

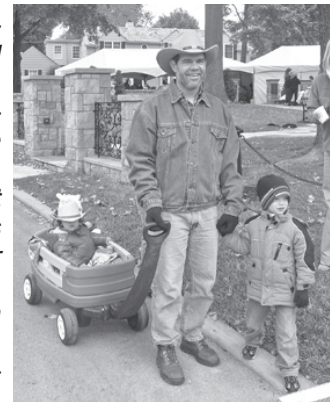
The Armour Fields Oktoberfest celebration was held on a brisk Sunday, but heated tents and a lively band kept neighbors warm.

Many of the young members of the neighborhood dressed in Halloween gear, and some even arrived in stylish transportation, such as the wagon shown at right.

Pony rides and bratwurst were the order of the day, as the event proved enjoyable for young and old.

The event also featured a costume contest.

Next up...our annual Holiday Lighting Contest!



The Armour Fields Homes Association membership directory is out! Many thanks to the board members of AFHA and the staff of Homes Association of Kansas City, particularly Jamie Marley, for helping us add this service to our residents. Please note and patronize our advertisers, whose announcements helped pay for this service!

Neighborhood Petition Challenges Board

Sixty-five homeowners from the Armour Fields Homes Association, representing 52 different households of the approximately 800 households in the Association, have signed and delivered a petition to the board of directors of the Association requesting that the Association hire an attorney to interpret the Bylaws of the Association with regard to several outstanding issues regarding elections, or the lack thereof, in recent years.

The factual background of the petition is that elections for directors to the board of the Association have not been held at the annual meetings of the Association for several years. Rather, the members of the board were chosen by the sitting members of the board and invited to serve on the board, and were not subject to neighborhood-wide election. Although nominations to the board have always been welcome at annual meetings, few have been made.

At the 2009 annual meeting a homeowner brought up the lack of elections, and as a result three persons were nominated and elected at the 2009 annual meeting. Those three persons are Jane Aylward, John Murphy and Jim Neihart, who currently sit on the homes association board.

The bylaws of the homes association, last revised in the year 2000, and available at the Homes Associations of Kansas City web site, www.ha-kc.org (click on "Missouri Associations" then "Armour Fields"), state that at each annual meeting of the Association the members elect directors for those positions then up for election. Three directors are to be elected each year. (Bylaws, sections 11(a) and 18).

The Bylaws also state that the total number of directors is to be nine (Bylaws, section 11(a)). The petition states that Board minutes and the *Armour Star* board listings show more than nine Board members.

The petition also states that Board members may fill vacancies only if Board vacancies occur during mid-term, and yet eleven of the fourteen directors (according to the listing in the May *Armour Star*) are not completing the terms of elected directors.

The petition also notes that the Bylaws state that all officers must be members of the Board, yet the acting

(continued on page 6)

Open Letter to the Neighborhood From the Board

It has come to the AFHA board's attention that numerous rumors are being propagated though the neighborhood. In order to openly respond, one must first understand the origins of the rumors and accusations against the current board and its members.

This past year the board was approached by a neighbor(s) who was rightfully concerned with the legality of a garage being constructed behind their home. The board referred to the AFHA restrictive covenants and the Kansas City, Missouri building codes and deemed the project legal and conforming. The board was further urged to seek an outside legal counsel ruling, which was done. The legal ruling, paid for with AFHA funds, also concluded that the construction was legal and conforming.

Since that time, these parties, along with another neighbor on the same block, who was upset with the placement of a decorative trash receptacle on a public island, have repeatedly called for the removal of the current AFHA board. These parties have disseminated falsehoods door to door as well as petitions as retribution for their perceived wrongful treatment by the AFHA board.

Here are the facts.

Rumor: There are 12-14 directors on the AFHA board when the bylaws state a maximum of 9.

Fact: The board is indeed made up of 9 directors, and the rest are nonvoting committee members who assist the directors on the different committees; *i.e.* block captains, special events, parks and islands etc.

Action plan: Directors and committee members will be listed in a clearer format from this time forward in the *Armour Star* newsletter (see last page).

Rumor: AFHA Bylaw revisions are being made to prevent neighbors from participating on the board and to do away with neighborhood members voting and electing directors.

Fact: Updates and clarifications are necessary from time to time (*i.e.* electronic communications, racist language etc.) but even these would be voted on by the neighborhood residents. One thing that will *not* change is the fact that the neighborhood members will always elect the directors.

(continued on page 6)

The Newsy Neighbor



by Jan Flanagan

One day the leaves of the backyard maple shone gold tinged with crimson. Then the evening's rain pattered them all to the ground. Time for raking – and more raking. It's a beautiful fall in the neighborhood!...

An early cold snap didn't prevent a large crowd from attending the annual Oktoberfest. A polka band playing "Roll Out the Barrel" summoned neighbors to the party site. Patient ponies Pokey, Chief and Lightning trotted up and down Edgevale carrying excited children. Some youngsters came in costume, and even a few not-so-young were dressed for Halloween (the neighborhood Halloween party was a predecessor to Oktoberfest and holiday outfits are still part of the fun) ...

Prizes were awarded for costumes, with 2½ year-old Annie Ward as a

cowgirl astride a pony taking top honors. Finn Dobbler, 1, was runner-up in a darling puppy outfit...

Inside the tents, heaters provided warmth and shelter for a buffet of traditional Bavarian fare. Brats, sauerkraut, potato salad and strudel were a magnet for the older set, while the kiddies gravitated to the hot dogs and mac and cheese. Centerpieces of mums were given away in a drawing from all who signed in to the party. Peggy LaPierre helped at the sign-in table and guests were welcome...

Mary Kingsley brought a friend and won a mum in the drawing. Jim & Julie McManus brought daughter Kathleen Couchonnal and her Caroline, age 3. The Powells from Edgevale attended, as did Carrie & Terry Madden, Bettine Freeman and Wornall Road residents James & Maureen Irvin. Romany Road's Jeanie Key brought Benjamin, 5, her grandson visiting from St. Louis, who eagerly recounted his recent ride on pony Lightning...

Sandy Gray, Melissa & Doug Jackson and former residents Brian & Lisa Greenwald, with Jonathan, 7, and Lea, 5, enjoyed the crisp weather. Others gathering in the tents included Mike Jantsch, Melissa & TJ Steck, Betty Beers, Diane & John Berkshire, Megan & Tim Sattelle and Tim & Alisa Roth...

Chris & Katie Ward arrived with a group. They shepherded Jake, age 1, portraying a monkey, complete with his banana, and Annie, 2½, a cowgirl (and costume prize winner). Nephews Luke, 3, and 2-year-old Matthew Davis were both ponies as cute as the real ones on the street...

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!

- Timothy Strausser
416 West 68th Street
- Brad & Beth Middleton
632 West 67th Street
- Midwest REO Property Group
451 West 67th Terrace
- Timothy Dummer & Roger Taylor
437 West 68th Terrace
- Timothy & Megan Sattelle
1004 West 68th Terrace
- Nicholas Callegari
400 West 69th Street
- Julia Fields
1015 Arno Road
- Jared & Sarah Barber
1022 Arno Road
- Leslie Abrahms
622 East 69th Terrace
- Claire Terrebonne
424 West Dartmouth
- Christopher & Lori Lewellen
1007 West 70th Street
- Tami Hutchinson
1011 West 70th Terrace
- Lewis & Rhoda Self
704 West Gregory

Former resident Jeni Dobbler brought her Finn, age 1, (another prize winner.) Jeni's parents Jim & Patty Aylward moved from our neighborhood recently. Kathy Diamond was busy with her John, 4, and Mary, 7. Unfortunately, hubby Paul and Evelyn, 6, were home sick...

(continued on page 8)



Your Neighborhood
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Armour Fields Newsletter and Fountain and Islands Work Garner HAKC Awards

At a recent meeting of the Homes Associations of Kansas City for all members of homes association boards throughout the area, the Armour Fields Homes Association received multiple awards.

The Homes Associations of Kansas City consists of nearly 50 area homes associations in the Kansas City, Missouri and Kansas City, Kansas area.

Don Dagenais received an award for outstanding newsletter for his hard work and dedication to being not only the editor, but also publisher of the *Armour Star* newsletter for the Armour Fields Homes Association.

In addition, Vonda Jensen received accolades for the second year in a row for her outstanding work with the renovations and maintenance of all the beautiful parks and islands throughout the neighborhood.

This is truly an honor for both, and the neighborhood owes a special thanks to both Don and Vonda for their years of dedication.



We hope you have noticed the new improvements to the traffic circle at 68th Terrace and Pennsylvania!

Thanks to Vonda Jensen, Chris Altenhofen and John Murphy for the excellent work on these improvements.

In traveling around the traffic circle, please be sure to follow the signs and go right.

Your neighbor selling our neighborhood.



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Safe and Secure



*by Brian Hand
Crime Prevention*

As the year comes to a close and the holidays are upon us I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of the neighbors who have passed on alerts and information from me and others in surrounding neighborhoods.

Communication is key in keeping our neighborhood safe from burglars, thieves, and worse.

One of the main ways that we communicate is through e-mails; I send out e-mails to the block captain chairs and to others who have asked me to include them directly. Unfortunately, many of our neighbors do not get copies of these notifications.

If you are not receiving them please make sure you update your

information with your block captain. If there are other reasons, please feel free to drop me a note and I will get you added or check for any weak links in our communication procedures.

We are working on alternative means to ensure full distribution so check the next safe and secure column for an update.

Another item that I wanted to address is a rash of vandalism in the neighborhood. Several street signs have been vandalized, and while the symbols on the signs may look "gang" related,

I assure you they are not. I have spoken with the KCPD and the symbols being placed on the signs are

more indicative of teenage pranks.

Regardless, please report instances of vandalism to the city by calling 311 and also to Chesley Brown, our security provider, at the phone number appearing on page 1 of every issue of this newsletter.

A common problem we are also noticing is the hesitance of neighbors to call the police or security. Many incidents can be prevented just by the simple act of calling when you notice suspicious behaviors or situations.

If you feel that something is out of the ordinary, you get a strange feeling about a vehicle driving down the street, or solicitors that just seem fishy, call the police or security. They may be looking for people with the same description of those you saw, so call and report suspicious activity immediately.

The thing the police always tell me is that neighbors are not wasting the police's time when they report these activities. As for security, they are paid with our voluntary security dues, and the more information they have, the better they can serve us.

Finally, with the holidays coming up be careful not to make yourself a target.

When shopping keep packages out of sight in your vehicle and park in well lit, well traveled areas. Make sure when you put boxes out for recycling you don't advertise what you have. Break down boxes that contained electronics and high value items and turn them inside out, placing them on the curb as close to pickup time as possible.

Also, call security to have a "special watch" on your home while you are on vacation, they can keep an extra eye out when you can't!

Have a great holiday season and stay Safe & Secure!

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Neighborhood Petition

(continued
from
page 2)

directors, the petitioners say, claim that they are “separate entities from the Board of Directors.”

A related point of controversy, raised in the petition, is that the current board of directors is considering proposed amendments to the Bylaws, and yet the majority of the members on the present Board have not been duly elected. The petition states that “it is requested that any proposed amendments or revisions to the 2000 Bylaws be terminated until the validity of the acting Board of Directors is resolved.”

To resolve these issues, the petition states that “the undersigned concerned neighbors request that those acting on behalf of the Board of Directors hire an attorney” to determine the legitimacy of the Board members and other issues. It requests that the attorney be independent on have no affiliation with the Board or the petitioners.

The Bylaws are to be changed only by a vote of the association membership (Bylaws, section 44).

At the annual meeting last June, on a motion from the floor, the members of the Association in attendance voted for a motion that the board of directors be brought into compliance with the Bylaws by July of 2009.

Open Letter to Neighborhood

(continued
from
page 2)

Action plan: All recommended Bylaw revisions, accompanied with justifications, will be submitted presented for discussion and vote in an open forum meeting.

Rumor: There have been no elections of AFHA board directors at the annual meetings for a number of years.

Fact: Three directors were elected at the last annual meeting. For at least three years or more, no neighborhood member expressed interest in serving and no nominations were submitted, therefore the board remained in place or members were appointed as the need arose during the year. Historically in the past, if a director steps down in the middle of their term, the vacancy needs to be filled as soon as possible due to the responsibilities of each director as a committee chairs.

Action plan: Clarify the Bylaws and make clear the number of directors, terms of office, and the election/appointment process of directors for a neighborhood vote in early 2010.

Rumor: The AFHA board has not been publishing financial information.

Fact: Budget projections along with financial holdings have been published in the *Armour Star* and also at every annual meeting (see page 10). They are also available to anyone directly from the Homes Associations of Kansas City (phone 913-585-2440).

Action plan: The AFHA board will continue to publish budget projections, financial holdings information yearly in the *Armour Star* and these also will be presented at each annual meeting.

Rumor: The current AFHA board has frivolously spent money on special events, monthly board meetings, themselves personally and has board members who are receiving funds from AFHA for contracted work.

Fact: The AFHA board procures grants and subsidies from the city of Kansas City through public improvement grants (PIAC) for the improvement of parks, and offsets the costs of special events with neighborhood tourism funds. Monthly board meetings are held at a board members homes. No current board member has had professional a contract(s) with AFHA.

Your AFHA board is comprised of volunteers who donate countless hours of service for the betterment of our community. The board continues to strive to assist any neighbor with questions or issues they may have.

Thank you for your time.
AFHA Board of Directors

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President's Column

by Dave Jensen, President

A Holiday season hello to all neighbors. It is hard to believe another year has almost past by. I still haven't even put away my suntan lotion, and now find myself dusting off the turkey deep fryer and Christmas lights.

My past three years as the AFHA board president has been extremely rewarding.

I have made some lasting friendships not only with many other board members, but also with many of you throughout the neighborhood and across the city. I

have truly enjoyed my interactions with all.

We all have seen the completion of the Romanelli Fountain and Island renovation, as well as the Painted Lady island improvements. We have started new projects such as the Ward Parkway Island renovation and the addition of additional special events such as the Oktoberfest celebration, book club and the gardening club.

I personally am very proud of all the accomplishments and projects that have been made throughout the

neighborhood with no increase in yearly dues during my tenure and a more liquid asset base than when I took the reins.

As my term comes to a close, I implore all to think long and hard about becoming active in the AFHA board and its numerous activities and projects.

The sense of pride that comes with volunteering for a cause that benefits not only yourself but the whole neighborhood is everlasting.



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 page 3: \$30 per issue or \$105 for four issues. Quarter page ads (such as ads on page 4) 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 next City lawn bag pickup date for our neighborhood is Thursday, December 10. The City will pick up up to 20 paper bags of lawn material (not sticks) if they are set outside your door by 7:00 a.m. that morning. Brush may be bundled with twine. No duct tape or trash is permitted.



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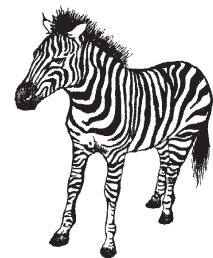
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The Kansas City Zoo is offering free admission for Kansas City, Missouri residents through the end of November during regular zoo hours. Proof of residency and a state-issued identification, such as a driver's license, are required. Residency can be verified with a bill, credit card statement, bank statement or other such mailing showing a Kansas City, Missouri address.



The Newsy Neighbor

by Jan Flanagan

(continued from page 3)

Darren Fulcher lives just across from the party site. His sister Kay Clark was there with his nieces Sheri Britt and Shashanda Mitchell and their little ones Jordan, 2, and Kendall, 4, who were lined up for pony rides. Kendall adored the white pony, whereas Emily Gibson, 7, preferred the pony Pokey...

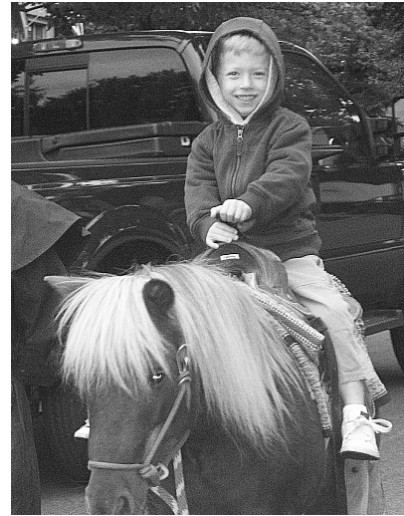
Sharon & JW Jenkins headed to the festive music emanating from the tents. Bebe & Jim Harrington were there with Eileen, 6, and Clare, 4 as were the Wilsons, Kenneth and Henri. Karen Bock brought Caroline, 2, for a pony ride and won a mum in the drawing. Brian & Karen Hand were making sure all went smoothly (kudos to Karen and Susan Smith for chairing the event)...

Patricia & Roger Hiatt found a spot to enjoy their food at a table in the tents, as did Jim & Carlene Neihart. Board prez Dave Jensen, Board member (and wife) Vonda

and daughter Zoey enjoyed visiting with neighbors. Heather Freund was a mum winner, while near the kegs, Tim Freund warned Newsy not to get between a man and his beer...

Also enjoying the evening's beverages were Gary Fedmets, Craig McKim and David & Mary Braddock. The Braddocks, Wisconsin fans, are enjoying Lew's Badger bar in Waldo. 70th Street residents Charlie & Sydney Buffum and Kristin Walker enjoyed the evening as did John Rasmus of Romany and Nancy McClure of 68th Terrace...

Edgevale's Ron McMickle and Robert Gangwere were there as were Jo Hendricks of Dartmouth and Susan Dillard and Sarah Knight from 69th Street. Brad & Marnae Spitz of 69th Terrace are awaiting the arrival of their first child any time now. If he/she is lucky, next year Baby will get to enjoy the party along



with the rest of the neighborhood...

Our sympathies to friends and family of Romany Road resident Elaine Ryder who passed away recently...

Rachel Swetnam (daughter of Gail)
(continued on page 9)

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The Newsy Neighbor

by Jan Flanagan

(continued from page 8)

Woodruff Moore & Randy Moore) is interning for well known photographer Nick Vedros here in KC. Rachel is a recent grad of MU with a degree in photojournalism...

Hisses and Hurrahs: *Hisses* to cold snaps that cause fall flowers to turn brown too early. *Hurrahs* to neighborhood Block Captains who send email updates to residents about crime alerts, lost dogs and more. Bless you!..

Melodie Powell is an active MU alum, serving on multiple boards and committees. Her dedication was recognized recently with the Faculty/ Alumni Award, given for outstanding contributions to her profession, the community and the university. Well done!...

Kudos to the "Island Fairies" who seemingly overnight transformed the new island at 68th Terrace and Pennsylvania into a lovely oasis. Rumor has it that Chris Altenhofen and John Murphy were behind the beautification project. Nancy Bone's question about negotiating the new island was in the Kansas City Star's Watchdog column. It should be treated as a roundabout and thus, no left turns in front of the island on any side -- go around it!...

Joe Sittenauer went to Cleveland to cheer on his dad Dan and Dan's corporate band The Weasels in a competition at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. The 13-year-old had a ball, meeting well known musicians and snagging autographs from Tommy Lee

of Motley Crue and singer/songwriter Lee Roy Parnel. If you're looking for some exciting hoops action, head to Rockhurst University women's basketball games featuring our own Eli Medina (daughter of George & Betsy). She's on the court while working on her MBA at RockU...

That's it for this edition. Remember, send news big or small to Jan, The Newsy Neighbor 816.333.8947 or email at jflanagan76@kc.rr.com, and BE SURE to write Newsy Neighbor in the subject line.

The newly redesigned Armour Fields web site is coming soon. At the moment it is under construction, but in the next few months you will be able to check www.armourfields.org and find a calendar of neighborhood events, links for members to sign up for e-mail alerts, links for block captains, crime updates, copies of meeting minutes, links to useful references for Kansas City, Missouri services, copies of the *Armour Star* newsletter, and more!

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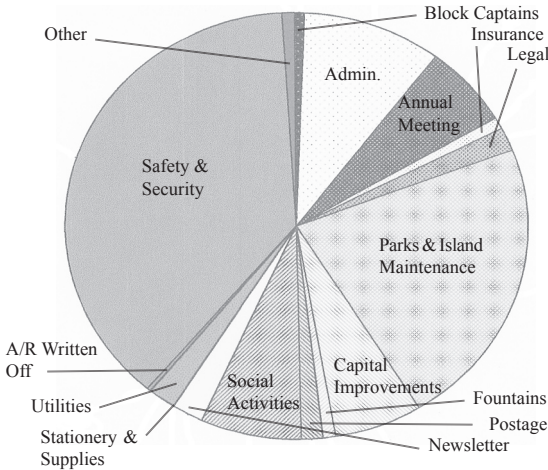
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**Armour Fields Homes Association
Budget Breakdown 2009-2010**



**ARMOUR FIELDS HOMES ASSOCIATION
Balance Sheet - October 31, 2009**


ASSETS	
Cash in Bank	\$61,361.74
Certificate of Deposits	10,223.64
Accounts Receivable	18,947.66
Deposits with HAKC	12,700.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$103,233.04

LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable--HAKC	15,596.36
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$15,596.36

RESERVES	
Unallocated Reserves	30,190.65
Capital Improvements	50,000.00
Fountain Maintenance	5,000.00
Current Earnings	2,446.03

Total Reserves \$87,636.68

**TOTAL LIABILITIES
& RESERVES** **\$103,233.04**



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A Letter From Jane Aylward

(Editor's Note: Jane Aylward is one of the three new AFHA board members elected at the June 2009 annual meeting.)

This note concerns questions raised about board elections for Armour Fields. As I understand the issue, in the past, people kept leaving the board with unexpired terms, then others were appointed to finish their terms. I remember reading the requests for board members in the newsletters, but often residents weren't able or interested in serving on the board, hence more appointed members.

As to the meeting in June, I feel no one was elected according to the Bylaws because we didn't observe the one household one vote rule, we didn't check to see if everyone there and voting was a member of the association, and we didn't use paper ballots -- all current Bylaws requirements.

The only way we could have come into compliance by July of this year is if we all stepped down and got everyone together again to have an official vote. No members of the association called for that to happen, so what we had to do is everything we could do make sure that happens in June 2010, and put together Bylaws which can make that happen.

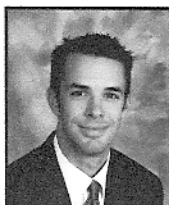
After reading all the pages of the By-laws I realized, as had everyone who read all of the Bylaws before me, that they state different rules for the same event in different places. Members of the board knew this was a problem last year, and were in the process of doing something about it.

We have a good plan in place now. We have all studied the Bylaws, we have met to discuss them, and we propose to put the original Bylaws and proposed changes on the website for all to see.

We propose waiting to hold an Association meeting until after the holidays when everyone has more time to give these changes careful consideration before we meet on a winter Sunday afternoon. It seems the Chiefs are cooperating with this plan by refusing to be in a playoff game!

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