



The Armour Star

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

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www.armourfields.org February 2010



You and the small people in your life are invited to the Armour Fields Homes Association's annual

Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday,
March 27
2:00 p.m.

The annual Armour Fields Easter Egg Hunt will be held at the Ward Parkway Island at 69th Street and Ward Parkway. Everyone is invited!

Costumes and colorful Easter baskets are encouraged. Bring your youngsters and be prepared for the fun. The homes association will provide the Easter eggs, and treats are for everybody!

We look forward to seeing you. Help us wish for great weather!

Brian Hand Becomes Homes Association President

Dave Jensen left the presidency of the Armour Fields Homes Association at the end of December, and has been replaced by Brian Hand, the Vice President/Safety and Security Chair of the Association's board.

Dave assumed the Armour Fields presidency in January of 2007 and served as President for three years. The Armour Fields neighborhood owes a deep debt of gratitude to Dave for his four years of outstanding service to the neighborhood. Congratulations upon your well deserved "retirement," Dave!

Brian Hand's inaugural column as President of the homes association appears on page 2. We welcome Brian and wish him the best in his new position as President.



December's snow storms brought a number of temporary residents to Armour Fields front lawns, including this snow person and snow dog which joined an inflatable variety of the same creature. After a few weeks warmer weather drove these temporary residents away, but perhaps their cousins will visit later. For more photos see page 4.

Winners of the Holiday Lighting Contest

Congratulations to the winners of the Armour Fields holiday lighting contest last December. These homes and blocks took away the prizes in this winter's contest:

Best Block: 1000 block of Romany Road

Best Theme: 661 Romany Road

Most Elaborate: 655 West 70th Street

Most Original: 6928 Edgevale

Most Colorful: 1001 West 70th Terrace

Honorary Mention: 6519 Valley Road

Congratulations to these homeowners for lighting up our holidays! We appreciate them, and all who decorated their homes for the holidays. Armour Fields upheld its reputation for being one of the most spirited neighborhoods in the city.

President's Column

by Brian Hand, President

I would like to start my first President's column with a brief introduction.

Many of you already know me from my service to the Armour Fields Homes Association as the Vice President/Safety & Security Chair. I have been connected to the neighborhood since childhood when I lived on 67th Terrace until 1984. I returned in November of 2005 after a one year deployment to Iraq with the Army National Guard and now live just a few blocks from where I lived as a child.



My block captain Kathleen Dorris welcomed my wife, Karen and I soon after we moved in and suggested we get involved with the association. At that time the board member in charge of security was stepping down during his term due to a move out of the neighborhood and with my military background and safety management experience, it seemed a good fit. I am proud to be home in Armour Fields and to have the opportunity to serve as the President of this great neighborhood association.

With the beginning of the new decade many changes have come to the Armour Fields Homes Association. New board members have settled into their roles and the roles of others have changed. In the last year we added three new directors to the board; Jim Niehart, Jane Aylward, and John Murphy, who replaced Dave Jensen,

Vonda Jensen and Carey Linson. Joy Crimmins also resigned to focus on getting her family back into their home after a fire in late 2008. I am glad to report they are back in with only a few finishing touches left.

I would like to personally thank all of the outgoing members for their years of service and the new members for their commitment to serve.

Other changes to our association include the upcoming resignation of our esteemed newsletter editor, Don Dagenais. Don has served tirelessly for years as a block captain and editor in our association putting together a high quality newsletter to keep everyone informed. Also retiring her column, "The Newsy Neighbor," is Jan Flanagan, who has also spent years keeping us informed of graduations, updates, and other information.

Both Don and Jan will be sincerely missed! If you are interested in serving your neighborhood as the newsletter editor, would like to write a column, or are interested in other ways to help in the association please contact me.

I would also like to take this opportunity to let everyone know a little about what your board does. The Board of Directors for the Armour Fields Homes Association is comprised entirely of volunteers who work to keep this neighborhood running. All Directors head up committees to do the business of the association, which are listed on the back of this newsletter.

The directors do the leg work and often the physical labor it takes to put together events, clean the fountains, prepare contracts, and supervise contractors among many other things to keep the neighborhood running. We work to be good stewards of the association funds and contract to provide services that keep our neighborhood running, sometimes spending many hours every week to accomplish our tasks. Your dues pay for those services which include, but are not limited to, mowing and maintenance of all parks and islands, plowing the snow from the streets (you didn't think it was the city did you?), security, and neighborhood events. These services help to keep property values up and make Armour Fields one of the most desirable homes associations to live in.

(continued on page 4)



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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 6) 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

Snowy tracks across the yard: Human, dog, cat, bird, bunny, squirrel...possum? Many creatures enjoy the blessings of our neighborhood!...

Speaking of snow, although the City does not clear the neighborhood streets, our homes association does contract for plowing. Brian Hand, our new Armour Fields Homes Association president, asks that you remember to move vehicles off the streets when snow begins to fall. Plows need a wide swath and are unable to clear a path when vehicles are parked on the street. Your neighbors thank you!...

Rob Linscott's neighbors on 67th Street wanted to give him a round of thanks for clearing their sidewalks after all the snow. Praise and thanks to him and other neighborhood good Samaritans!...

Once again, the holiday season was a time for many block gatherings. The 400 block of 67th Terrace held their annual progressive dinner early in December. It began with appetizers at the home of John & Susan Reboulet, then moved to Charley & Sally Cobb's home for a lasagna dinner. The enjoyable evening ended at Frank & Linda Anecchini's for dessert...

Neighbors on 69th Street, 400 block, held their annual holiday party in January. Terry & Carrie Madden hosted the event which included a fun gift exchange game. The 600 block of 68th Terrace also waited until January to hold their annual Women of the Block winter party. Women gathered at the home of Dixie Pollard for the festivities...

Arno Road also had a progressive dinner in January. Steve and Andrea Bough hosted the drinks and appe-

tizers, with Barbara and Bill Meier treating the group to salads. Then George and Deena Wolf invited their neighbors over for delicious Italian style entrees, and Pat and Don Dagenais finished up the evening with delicious desserts. More than half of the block attended and all had a delightful time. Perhaps your block should do the same, to help us out of the winter doldrums!...

Congratulations to new Eagle Scout John Heiman. John was recognized at an Eagle Court of Honor for Troop 1084 at Country Club Christian Church. John is a sophomore at Rockhurst High. His proud family includes parents John & Cathy and younger sister Mary...

Gina & John Reardon's Catering By Design launched a new website this fall, www.cateringbydesignkc.com. They are also offering a series of Wednesday night suppers, different offerings each week, perfect for families or for neighbors and friends to share. Tasty!...

(continued on page 6)

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!

Jeffrey & Erin Schilling
6528 Jefferson
Philip & Elizabeth Glynn
6537 Summit
Michale Nonbello
438 West 66th Terrace
Sean Schembri
600 West 67th Street
James & Julie Herbig
628 West 67th Street
Grant Humphries
451 West 67th Terrace
John Christiansen
1021 West 67th Terrace
William & Patricia Donath
435 West 68th Street
Zachary Griffith
804 West 70th Street
Todd & Katherine Acuff
1020 Romany Road



Dixie Pollard and Jan Flanagan (left) were the hostesses of the annual Women of the Block holiday party for the 600 block of 68th Terrace in January. At right are Nancy O'Neill, Cynthia Sheridan and Cathy Heiman enjoying warm beverages.

Parks and Islands Meeting

The Armour Fields Parks and Islands committee would like to invite all interested neighbors to a meeting to discuss plans for the upcoming year. The meeting will be on Tuesday, February 23, at 7:00 p.m. at 649 West 67th Terrace, the home of Jane Aylward, our Parks and Islands chair.

If you would like to come, please RSVP to Jane at aylwardclan@everestkc.net, so she knows how to plan for the meeting.

Jane says, "we will be talking about improvements to Ward Parkway island, 67th Street and Wornall island, trash cans, and putting together a committee to help maintain and monitor the parks and islands." Please plan to attend the meeting, and be sure to let Jane know of your plans.



These are just a few of the creative show people who appeared in our neighborhood over the December holidays. We welcome them back anytime. Weather permitting, of course.

President's Column

(continued from page 2)

Another thing I would like to mention is that our association, like many others in the Greater Kansas City area, is a member of the Homes Associations of Kansas City (HAKC). HAKC handles many of the day to day operations of the association, like mailing out welcome packets, gathering of information and collecting dues. While they do a lot to assist our association, they do not set policy or make decisions regarding the direction of our neighborhood. All issues raised to them that regard neighborhood services are passed on to the Board of Directors.

We are an open and transparent association and would like to provide a forum to have your questions answered so I would like to start an Ask the Board column to address concerns and dispel rumors. So if you have questions send me an e-mail, letter or give me a call, we will try to publish as many as we can in each newsletter, please understand that we do have a limited amount of space so keep it short and to the point. Questions not answered in the newsletter will, as always, be answered either by phone or e-mail. If you do not want your question published, or if you want your name withheld, please specify that in your correspondence.

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Block Captains the Backbone of AFHA

by Jim Neihart and Peggy LaPierre
Block Captain Co-Chair

Armour Fields Block Captains distributed the new neighborhood directories during the month of November. Hopefully every household in the Armour Fields neighborhood received a directory. Members who did not receive a directory at their address should contact the Block Captain co-chairs, Peggy LaPierre or Jim Neihart (contact information on last page of this newsletter).

Block Captains are the backbone of a successful association. They act as the association's liaison for their immediate neighbors. We have made every effort to ensure each home has been assigned a block captain. If you are not sure who your block captain is, again please contact Peggy or Jim.

Some of the responsibilities of a Block Captain are:

1. Introduce yourself to the neighbors on your block.
2. Gather information for the neighborhood directory, current names, addresses, phone numbers, etc.
3. Attend general neighborhood meetings.
4. Report to the president of the neighborhood as-

sociation any block information needing attention by the association.

5. Encourage social activities for your block by asking others to host a get-together.

6. Hold periodic block club meetings to discuss issues relating to your area of the neighborhood.

7. Welcome new neighbors on your block. And to inquire if they have received their welcome packet from HA-KC.


8. Identify a willing individual to take your place when your term as block captain is over.

9. Work with code enforcement by alerting neighbors or Association Officers of violations.

10. Pass along all crime alerts and notifications.

11. Inquire if they would like to receive neighborhood email alerts regarding safety, events and neighborhood update.

Based on input from last fall's block captain meeting, we will hold our meetings before neighborhood functions. Block captain meetings are held one hour before the June Annual meeting and one hour before Oktoberfest. Thank you to all block captains for your continued participation.



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The Newsy Neighbor

(continued from page 3)

Hisses and Hurrahs: Hisses to potholes, muddy sidewalks, doggy doo left behind. Hurrahs to courteous drivers, birds at feeders, the first crocus foliage peeking above ground...

Kudos to Pembroke Hill's Emily Gray-Gribble (her parents are Sandy & Garry) who ran varsity cross country for the school this year as a freshman. Emily qualified for State and finished a speedy 22nd! Robbie Mansur (Pattie & Mike), a 6th grader at Border Star, is a delegate to the Model United Nations program in New York this month. Robbie will represent the East African country of Burundi. Border Star intends to de-

velop a program to send a delegation to the Model UN each year...

Zachary Miller (R.B. & Holly) is finishing up veterinary studies at Mizzou. He begins an internship this Spring at the Kansas City Zoo. Luke Betterman is spending a year studying at Oxford, England. Mom Kathleen was able to visit the University of Notre Dame junior and watch him play in a rugby game against Cambridge. Quite an interesting event and some fun mom/son time together...

Sean Svadlenak (Steve & Jean) graduated early from Temple University in Philadelphia and is working in the Urban Archives there while freelancing as a sound engineer...

Wedding bells in the Neihart family. Jim & Carlene's grandson Jim II is marrying Rachel Leisy this Spring.

Rachel is recovering from a bone marrow transplant. Her story has been told in various medical articles and featured in *Woman's Day* magazine. Busy times at Jim & Jan Flanagan's household with two sons engaged to be married this fall. Sean & Cassie Weigel (of Kentucky) will wed in St. Louis where both attended SLU. Bryan & Kirsten Bontrager (a Sion grad) will be married at Visitation here in KC...

Brad & Marnae Spitz are big Wisconsin Badgers and Green Bay Packers fans, so it is almost believable that their new son Gavin (born November 19) enjoys watching their games on TV, as his dad claims. Congratulations to them! Congratulations as well to another set of first-time parents, Mike
(continued on page 8)

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Things Your Burglar Won't Tell You

from Chesley Brown Security

1. Of course I look familiar. I was here just last week cleaning your carpets, painting your shutters, or delivering your new refrigerator.

2. Hey, thanks for letting me use the bathroom when I was working in your yard last week. While I was in there, I unlatched the back window to make my return a little easier.

3. Love those flowers. That tells me you have taste...and taste means there are nice things inside. Those yard toys your kids leave out always make me wonder what type of gaming system they have.

4. Yes, I really do look for newspapers piled up on the driveway. And I might leave a pizza flyer in your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it.

5. If it snows while you're out of town, get a neighbor to create car and foot tracks into the house. Virgin drifts in the driveway are a dead giveaway.

6. If decorative glass is part of your front entrance, don't let your alarm company install the control pad where I can see if it's set. That makes it too easy.

7. A good security company alarms the window over the sink. And the windows on the second floor, which often access the master bedroom -- and your jewelry. It's not a bad idea to put motion detectors up there too.

8. It's raining, you're fumbling with your umbrella, and you forget to lock your door-understandable. But understand this: I don't take a day off because of bad weather.

9. I always knock first.

If you answer, I'll ask for directions somewhere or offer to clean your gutters. (Don't take me up on it.)

10. Do you really think I won't look in your sock drawer? I always check dresser drawers, the bedside table, and the medicine cabinet.

11. Here's a helpful hint: I almost never go into kids' rooms.

12. You're right: I won't have enough time to break into that safe where you keep your valuables. But if it's not bolted down, I'll take it with me.

13. A loud TV or radio can be a better deterrent than the best alarm system. If you're reluctant to leave your TV on while you're out of town, you can buy a \$35 device that works on a timer and simulates the flickering glow of a real television. (Find it at faketcv.com.)

Seeking a Journalist!

The Armour Fields Homes Association is seeking a new editor for this newsletter. If you have an interest, please contact either Brian Hand, the President of the Armour Fields Homes Association, or Don Dagenais, the current editor (contact information is on page 8).

Don will be happy to train a new editor and pass along all newsletter information, so the training and turnover process should be easy. If you have always wanted to be an editor... this job is for you!



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The Newsy Neighbor

(continued from page 6)

& Hillary McCoy. Their new daughter Elizabeth Dee (to be called Liddy) was born November 23...


Fifi Wiedeman shared the news that *The New Yorker* magazine ran a piece by David Owen (a KC native) which mentioned The Dime Store, the venerable Brookside store. Titled "Personal History – The Dime Store Floor," he reminisces about the store and a few other local sites...

The Kansas City Star featured another neighbor and her business. Willow Lundgren of 69th Terrace owns Small Planet Partners, at www.smallplanetpartners.com, which facilitates sustainability workshops and is launching a project to recycle electronic waste...

Romany Road residents and many others grieve the passing of Margaret Basso shortly after Thanksgiving. Condolences to her husband Mark and son Andy, a junior at Rockhurst High. We also express condolences to Gloria Ginter, whose husband Curt passed away in December. They are longtime residents of Arno Road...

Our long time wonderful news-letter editor Don Dagenais and his wife Pat are moving out of the neighborhood (but still in Kansas City) and thus Don is leaving his editor's

position. Don has been an absolute joy to work with and will be sorely missed. Newsy has chronicled the neighborhood for 20 years now and
(continued on page 9)



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A Letter From Jim Neihart

Since being elected as a director at the June 2009 annual meeting of the Armour fields Homes Association, I have found it to be a time consuming and challenging experience. Each day requires sending or answering emails, supporting or questioning a view or action, and other tasks.

And, I have grown to appreciate those who devote their time and talents to our homes association such as our newsletter editor Don Dagenais, the board, the Block Captains, and other members who work together to make Armour Fields a good place to live.

My family moved from the Turner area to Romany Road in Armour Fields around 1961. When our boys reached the age that they were moving out on their own, we thought about moving. We looked carefully at the various areas of the city, some of which were growing and becoming very popular.

But instead, we decided to have the home built on a vacant lot where we now live, about a block away from our home on Romany Road and have never regretted the decision to stay in Armour Fields.

Although it is challenging and time consuming, I appreciate the opportunity to serve on the board of Armour Fields. I would like to encourage all of the members to stay informed on the matters involving our neighborhood so that we can continue to be sure that Armour Fields stays the wonderful place to live that it has been in the past.

Please contact any of the board members or me if you have a question, suggestion or concerns.

Jim Neihart

The Newsy Neighbor

(continued from page 8)

this seems to be a good time to retire and let a fresh voice take over. So the next issue will be the last column for The Newsy Neighbor.

If you have an interest in either the editor or columnist position, please get in touch with our Homes Association president Brian Hand. His contact info is on the back page of the newsletter...

So this is your last chance to get news in to The Newsy Neighbor! Send e-mail to janflanagan76@kc.rr.com or phone 816.333.8947. Remember, news big or small, your neighbors want to know!



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

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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