



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 May 2010

Glass Recycling Available Near Armour Fields

Although the curbside recycling system does not accept glass items, Ripple Glass, a local glass recycling system, is now available near Armour Fields. After residents drop off their empty glass containers in the purple Ripple Glass bins, the glass is delivered, crushed into cullet, cleaned and sold to Owens Corning Fiberglass for processing in its Kansas City plant.

It is made into building insulation used to lessen the energy burden of heating or cooling homes. Much of the insulation produced locally will be used in regional building efforts.

Ripple Glass is the first such fully localized system in the country that has energy savings built into every step. Transportation and fuel costs of reclaiming glass are radically reduced; the Ripple Glass processing plant utilizes state-of-the-art technology that is ecologically sensitive, and the new product – fiberglass insulation – makes the built environment more energy efficient. Bin hosts and Ripple Glass will be making a significant and positive environmental impact



in Kansas City. This is considered a closed loop recycling effort for it is all local businesses completing the product from start to finish.

The closest Ripple Glass container is at Border Star school at 63rd and Wornall Road. There is also one near 51st and Main south of Andre's Confitserie. For other locations see www.rippleglass.com.

And the race was on! These Armour Fields youngsters were among about 50 who participated in the homes association's annual Easter Egg Hunt last March 27 at the Ward Parkway Island. There were calories aplenty for all. See more photos on page 8.

You are invited to the
**Armour Fields
Homes Association
Annual Meeting**

Sunday, June 13, 2010
Romanelli Island
69th and Wornall

2:30-3:15 p.m.
Registration/Social Hour

3:15-4:15 p.m.
Annual Business Meeting

4:15-6:30 p.m.
Party/Food/
Entertainment

Please join us for food, fun and games at our annual picnic meeting at the Romanelli Island. You will enjoy visiting with your neighbors, our kids' activities, and a repast furnished by the homes association. For the kids, we will have pony rides!

The official business at the meeting will include presentations by officers and committees and the election of directors for the coming year (see page 4).

This is a free event sponsored by your homes association. We look forward to seeing you there!

President's Column

by Brian Hand, President

Spring has come to the Armour Fields Homes Association and like at your home, spring cleaning is underway. The fountains are being maintained, islands are being mowed, planting and other maintenance is being accomplished as well.



Each year we evaluate the services we have and work to get the best value for your dollars. While each homeowner's share is relatively small it all adds up to ensure that we have one of the best maintained associations in Kansas City. Your dues make that happen from all the things mentioned above to plowing the streets in the winter, correcting safety issues, providing security and a host of other services that make our neighborhood a desirable place to live.

Over the past several months there have been rumors of dues increases from neighbors, and I would like to take this opportunity to assure every resident that there has been absolutely no discussion of any dues increase this year or in any year that I can recall serving on this board.

One of the reasons that we are able to complete improvements in our association without raising the dues is because we seek funding from alternate sources such as grants, Public Improvements Advisory Committee (PIAC) funds from the city, and tax

deductible donations to our account with the City of Fountains Foundation. Sadly, some of these revenue streams have been compromised or diminished due to complaints made to city hall stating that our board is not legitimate and other false accusations.

I would like to add that over the past year four board members have resigned due to a variety of reasons, but most disturbing are the personal attacks, lies and rumors lodged against them. These volunteers who serve selflessly do not deserve to be defamed and degraded. These personal attacks and rumors have ranged from accusations of board members profiting from contracts to racially motivated character attacks. I am personally disgusted that these comments are circulating in our neighborhood and hope that residents contact me or another board member when you hear of these issues so we can address them appropriately.

The fact of the matter is that the board is comprised solely of uncompensated volunteers who do not profit from and are precluded from having

contracts with the association. There are gains that each and every association member and board member receives from the service of board members, and those are increased property values and sense of community from a well maintained and active association. The association books are open, as they always have been, and are available through the Homes Association of Kansas City. You can contact them via the information listed in every newsletter.

As always you can contact me with any questions you may have about actions the board has taken or if you have issues that need to be resolved.

I do have one request for all residents of our association, and that is to come to the annual meeting and vote for those who you believe support the best interest of the neighborhood as a whole. Come and make your voice heard if you are happy or unhappy with the services provided by the association, your input is critical. If you are interested in serving on the board please contact me with a nomination so you can be put on the ballot at the annual meeting or if you want to be on a committee I can put you in contact with the committee chair.

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 new Editor, Shelley Cetin, at 588-2817 or e-mail: sdcetin@hotmail.com.



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The Newsy Neighbor



by Jan Flanagan

Pink and white dogwood blooms floating to the ground, the hum of lawnmowers – it's finally Spring in our neighborhood!...

As mentioned last issue, this will be the final column for the Newsy Neighbor. After many years of trying to be Newsy, not Nosy, I am turning in my reporter's cap. Not going anywhere, just figured it was time for another writer to cover events and personalities here in Armour Fields. The new columnist is Kelley Funk, who will bring her own voice to the newsletter. I hope you will support her and send many tips her way: kellslagle@aol.com. ...

So, let's start with what's new – babies! Brigitte & Jonathan Wright's Oliver was born February 4, joining big brother Christopher, 2½. Karen & Mike Bock have their hands full now that big sis Caroline, 2, has a brother. Joseph Dean Bock arrived March 14. Linda & Bob Dro are first-time

grandparents. Wee lad Brogan Waters Dro was born to Michele & Justin Dro on St. Patrick's Day and Linda hasn't stopped smiling since!...

Also looking forward to first time grandparenthood are Maraline & John Hayob. Daughter Jeni and her husband Shaun Zacharias shared the happy pregnancy news. They reside in Chicago. It's a first grandson for Julie & Jim McManus. Baby Sean was born to their daughter Jane & husband Matt Kolakowski. Sean's cousin Caroline, age 3, will be visiting their grandparents soon with mom Kathleen Couchonnal...

Meaghan & Brian Hagenhoff are expecting their second child soon. They and 1-year-old Henry are returning to the neighborhood where Meaghan grew up. She is the daughter of Kate & Pete Brown whose first home in our neighborhood was at 1015 W. 69th. That must be the family's lucky number, as now Meaghan and her crew are moving to 1015 W. 70th Terrace...

Congratulations to our neighborhood graduates! Alex Sosinski (Teresa & Dave) is graduating from Rockhurst High. After spending his summer as a camp counselor at Snow Mountain Ranch in Colorado, Alex will officially become a KU Jayhawk. His classmate John Reardon (Gina & John) will head to the University of Port-



Fire trucks were called to a home on 68th Terrace a couple of weeks ago to deal with a serious house fire. Fortunately no one was home at the time and all escaped injury, but substantial property damage occurred.

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!

Janell Enderson
1007 West 68th Terrace
Thomas & Shawn Manning
6920 Pennsylvania
Ted & Wendy Osborn
7059 Edgevale
Brian & Meaghan Hagenhoff
1015 West 70th Terrace

land this fall. And the last Hinken is leaving the nest! Maura (Maureen & Chris) is graduating from St. Teresa's Academy and will hit the books at the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota, leaving her parents wondering where the time went. Pembroke Hill grad Andrew Garner (Susan & Alan) is accepted into the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University in Bloomington. Andrew was a 4-year member and senior co-captain of the varsity tennis team at Pembroke...

Katie Adair (Mary & Bill) is graduating from K-State with a degree in economics. She and Chris Wells will marry in May at St. Peter's and then return to Manhattan where Katie will study dietetics and Chris business. Chris is finishing service in the Army, stationed at Fort Collins, Colorado and has served a 1-year tour in Iraq. Inga Kirsch (Marsha & Greg) receives her journalism degree from KU this May. Tom Hogan (Mary Kay & Jim) will graduate from Truman

(continued on page 8)

Armour Fields Election Procedures

by Brian Hand, President

With the annual meeting coming up, it is important to note that several changes are being implemented to ensure compliance with the bylaws and respect the time of the members of the association. First the meeting will be limited to one hour and will follow the agenda as prescribed in Roberts Rules of Order. If you have an agenda item

please submit it to Brian Hand no later than Friday, June 4, if you would like it to be included.

Only members in good standing will be permitted to vote at the Annual Meeting, in accordance with the bylaws of the Armour Fields Homes Association. There is only one vote per residential lot, so registration will be required prior to receiving a

ballot; you will need to have a valid ID to vote and each member will be checked to verify eligibility at the sign in table. Registration will begin at 2:30 p.m. with the meeting starting at 3:15 p.m.

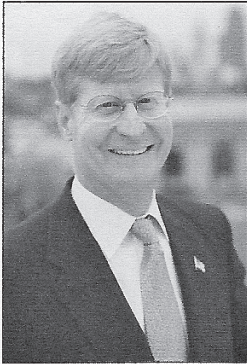
We will be conducting a reset of the board and all nine positions will be up for election as if the current bylaws were new. This is to ensure that all positions are elected under the requirements as outlined in the bylaws. The meeting will end at 4:15 p.m. and all ballots must be completed and turned in by that time.

Nominations for board positions must be submitted to Brian Hand, President prior to May 31 via e-mail, U.S. Mail, or phone to be included on the Ballot. Anonymous nominations will not be accepted. Nominations will be listed in the order received.

Contact information is on the back page of this newsletter. You will be able to write in candidates who were not nominated prior to the deadline.

Please contact Brian Hand if you have any questions. Thank you.

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Update on Parks and Islands Work

by Jane Aylward, Parks and Islands Committee

Over twenty requests for bids including a scope of work were sent out this spring to companies expressing an interest in maintaining our parks and islands, with nine companies submitting sealed proposals. The contract runs from April through October with weekly trash can pickup year round. If you would like to see the bids, please let me know and I'll e-mail the spreadsheet to you.

Complete Turf & Landscape was the successful bidder for turf and flowerbed maintenance. The company has now completed the spring cleanup and has fertilized and mulched the beds and treated the turf. Any other major plantings we don't do ourselves will be put out for bid.

We are planning to remove the overgrown and bagworm-covered evergreens at Seville Park and Ward

Parkway Park, move the nonblooming rosebushes at 67th and Valley Circle to a sunnier location in Seville Park, paint the wrought iron sign there and restore the Italian marble urn at the Ward Parkway Park, add boxwood and japonicas (year round leaves and color) to 67th and Valley, and add perennials to Seville Park.

We would like to install a new bed and plantings around the fountain at 67th and Wornall so there is less grass to clog the fountain filter and so we have foliage or flowers there to enjoy year round. The thought is that they should be prickly bushes to discourage yet more vandals from destroying the fountain again.

A former association member has graciously donated 100 or so daffodil bulbs from her new home, which will be added to our islands this fall. She has a hundred more. I just don't have time to go dig them up, so please call me if you have the time and would like to help.

The Ward Parkway Park is a work in progress. I have met with the city archivist to research the original J.C. Nichols landscape layout for the park at Ward Parkway and 69th. The design included our park with two female statues and the Italian urn, the Ward Parkway median with its fountain, and an identically-shaped park with two male statues and urn on the west side of Ward Parkway. It was meant as the main focal point between Meyer Circle and Gregory—a beautiful open area to slow traffic and lower blood pressure along the drive.

At the June meeting, the homes association board will review a design and will consider bids for adding more low-maintenance trees, shrubs and perennials to highlight the statues and urn, hide the incredibly large and ugly electrical boxes the city and phone companies planted there, and install unobtrusive lighting which should enhance the plantings, statues and security. You would not believe what we find under those and other overgrown bushes!

By the way, please do not dispose of your deceased pets in our trash cans. And if it is true that "those kids" are the ones filling them with wine and liquor bottles, the company which emptied them this winter said they are drinking some very expensive stuff!

We will talk about trash cans at the June meeting. I'm not sure all of us should be paying a weekly fee so some can put their pet waste in them.

Because no one has expressed an interest in being on the Parks and Islands the committee, I'm working on "Done-in-an-Hour and Done-in-a-Half-Day" projects. Call me (520-0750) if you would be willing to plant, transplant, water, etc. Some of this we can do ourselves.



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News About Armour Fields Fountains

By Christin DiMartino, Fountains Chair

It's fountain season again Armour Fields! And, you may wonder, why only one fountain? And why is the big fountain just on, when the water in the fountains on Ward Parkway begin to run in late April?

As to the small fountain off Wornall, our bitter winter did a number on her. Our brand new urn is cracked straight through; like my eyes, roof and ceilings, winter was just rough on property. But, our gorgeous urn is under warranty and in route to be replaced by the wonderful folks at Van Liew's, thank them!

As to Romanelli Fountain, she is running beautifully. Yea! A handful of repairs were made last year, and fingers crossed, we'll be in the clear this fountain season.

As a reminder, the Romanelli Island fountain cannot be started until we have a day at about 85 degrees, so her bronze can be waxed before start-up, kind of like an old car.

Look forward to the our Romanelli Island fountain running soon, and please, please keep little people and pets out of your water features. They can present a hazard.

Enjoy spring!

Save the Date!

Armour Field's Oktoberfest
 Saturday, October 9, 2010
 Romanelli Island, 69th and Wornall

Save the date for the 3rd annual Oktoberfest! Fun and good times are to be had by all, so make your way to the Annual Armour Field's Homes Oktoberfest Party on October 9. Festive entertainment, costume contest and traditional German food/drink will be served!

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The Block Captain Concept

*by Jim Neihart
Block Captain Co-Chair*

A meeting of Armour Fields block captains will be held at the Romanelli Island Fountain before the June 13, 2010 Annual Meeting.

The block captain concept has been around for a long time in one form or another.

A short description of the block captain system would be: Locations are organized in small manageable groupings, typically for emergency preparedness/disaster preparedness planning and quick response in a real emergency.


The group size typically ranges from 10-15 family units. In a more densely populated location, a loose rule of thumb is that when a block

captain stands on his/her front step and looks around, the homes the block captain can see are "their" block or neighborhood. It helps with communication and increases the odds that one of them will be home when a disaster or emergency strikes.

Block captains are volunteers and are reluctant to be intrusive into the lives of their neighbors. However, this is a "neighborhood" program. All residents in the neighborhood are included in it. Over time, the block captains keep track of changes in residents, their names, needs, resources, etc. The information is needed to keep people involved and to know who is missing in the event of a disaster and what special needs they may have in addition to the disaster.

Block associations usually fall into one of three categories: active, inactive and developing. Some groups meet regularly and then stop when there are no serious issues to address. Each group is unique, has different needs and will work within different timelines and will not be able to solve every problem in their community, but will be able to resolve many specific issues.

In the Armour Fields area, according to the Census Bureau, 87% of the homeowners have participated in the 2010 census to date. The national participation rate currently stands at 72%. If you're among the other 13%...expect a knock on the door soon!



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The Newsy Neighbor

by Jan Flanagan

(continued from page 3)

State with double degrees in Physics and Political Science and then begin his PhD program in physics at Boston College.

Abigail Sosinski (Teresa & Dave) is graduating from Marquette with degrees in Human Resources and Marketing. The Dagenais family has two graduations this month – Lydia is receiving a Master's Degree in higher education from the University of Pennsylvania and her sister Alison is graduating with honors from Grinnell College with a degree in anthropology and French. Zachary Miller (Holly & RB) receives his veterinary degree from MU this month. Corbin Keech (Camilla & John) is moving from LA to New York to begin a master's program in Architecture, Planning & Preservation at Columbia University. Charlie Caffrey (Valerie & Mark) has been accepted to various medical schools across the country and is weighing his options. His parents are hoping he chooses one close to home as he has been living in Washington, DC. A decision is due close to press time...

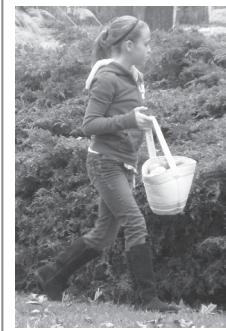
Erin Hogan (Mary Kay & Jim) has finished her sophomore year at Drake University in Des Moines and was honored as Outstanding Residence Hall Leader there. Erika Kirsch (Marsha & Greg), a sophomore at the University of Arkansas, will participate in a study abroad program in Brazil this summer. Kevin Flanagan (Jan & Jim) spent spring break in Salt Lake City where he presented a paper at the Society of Toxicology annual meeting. Kevin just completed his junior year as a biology major at the University of Notre Dame. Chris Adair (Mary & Bill) is finishing his second year in a

PhD program at DePaul University in Chicago. Chris is in a program for Industrial Organization. Congrats to all our scholars!...

Mary Beth Cicchetti knows her sauce! The 69th Street resident was on a television segment featuring entrepreneurs and hopes to bring her delicious spaghetti sauce to market soon. (In the interest of accuracy, Newsy needed to taste test!) You can learn more at www.cicchettisauce.com.

Cary Silverman (Vicki & Paul) has a website www.pub-corn.com for his alcohol-flavored popcorn. Beer is Vicki's favorite flavor. Others include Pina Colada and Irish Crème, with more under development...

Our favorite neighborhood organizer Carlene Neihart was a judge for the annual pipe organ competition in her name. It was held at Second Presbyterian Church in April with participants



The Easter Bunny (above) was the guest of honor at the Armour Fields Homes Association's annual Easter Egg Hunt in late March. He rewarded this honor by handing out lots of sugar, but the young people of our association had to work for it.

from around the world...

Sharon & Chico Menendez are considering renaming their pooch. Their canine Super Boy aroused the
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The Newsy Neighbor

by Jan Flanagan

(continued from page 8)

pair around midnight one weekday. His antics led them to discover that the deck next door was on fire. Luckily, firefighters arrived quickly and controlled the situation at Cathy & John Heiman's. Chico moved speedily to rescue his prized Corvette from his garage adjacent to the fire. Thanks to talented firefighters as well as alert neighbors and their dog, no one was injured and damage was contained. Super Boy received extra treats and a new nickname -- Smoky...

Unfortunately, fire trucks made another appearance on 68th Terrace a few weeks later and the damage was much more severe. Shelly & Paul Migliazzo and their daughters Taylor and Olivia were away from home when the Saturday morning fire erupted. Block Captain Cathy Diamond has rallied neighbors to assist them while they cope with the aftermath and home renovation...

As the fire was getting under control, across the street Dixie Pollard was preparing to host a bridal shower that day. Cynthia Sheridan, Dixie's daughter, assisted with the "2 Brides for 2 Brothers" event honoring the fiancées of Flanagan (Jan & Jim) boys Bryan (Kirsten Bontrager) and Sean (Cassie Weigel.)...

I hope you will indulge me in a walk down memory lane as I finish this final column. First, a huge thank you to all the tipsters over the years. I couldn't have done it without you. When I first began, there were no tipsters and I scrambled to compile each column. Once email came along, things became easier. My original columns were put into the newsletter via manual "cut and paste." I typed out a column, drove it to Dan Kaufman's downtown office and we used scissors and glue to put together a newsletter which was then copied and printed. Now I email the column in. Ah, technology!...

So, what's gone on in the many years I have written this? I paged through old newsletters and found some items you may remember (or consider this a history lesson for newer residents.) The Block Captain program was organized in the early '90s with Homes As-

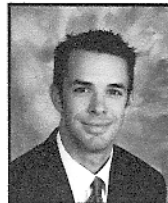
sociation board member Barbara Roche at the helm. In 1993 Romanelli Court and Fountain won an Urban Design Award for Restoration projects. That award was the result of years of effort by board member Sarah Hancock and many dedicated volunteers. Sarah spearheaded a fundraising campaign and the restoration. Plaques in the park honor those early donors. 1993 was also when the newsletter began accepting ads. Back then there were usually 6 issues a year (now there are 4, but they are longer), and special issues for hot topics were sometimes published...

April 1994 was the first annual garage sale. And in 1994, curbs and sidewalks were a very divisive issue. A special benefit district was formed whereby the entire neighborhood might get new curbs, sidewalks and streets at a reduced cost. After many meetings and an extra edition of the newsletter devoted to the topic, a special election was held and the measure was defeated by a narrow margin. Some blocks then proceeded to vote on the project on a block-by-block basis. Neighborhood-wide meetings were

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The Newsy Neighbor

by Jan Flanagan

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also called to debate starting a security patrol service, a hotly debated topic. In 1996, MGE replaced gas lines and meters through the area. The traffic circle at 67th & Valley was renovated and the urn installed in 1997. 1998 saw the beginning of a Holiday Homes Tour which continued for several years...

In 2000, a special meeting of homeowners was called to vote on new bylaws which included new articles of incorporation drawn up by neighbor and former mayoral candidate Dan Cofran. That year another contentious issue was addressed as the Homes Association prepared to put up markers for the neighborhood. What name should go on the markers? We were known as the Armour Fields Homes Association but some longtime residents felt that they lived in areas commonly referred to as Romanelli Gardens or Meyer Circle and they did not want to lose those connections. Refer to the newsletter masthead to see the compromise which includes all those names. New streetlights also came to the neighborhood in 2000...

In 2002, after a devastating ice storm, neighbors cut, tied and stacked downed tree limbs by the parkways, creating a wall 6-foot high along the streets. Much of the area was without power for a week or more and neighbors pitched in to help one another, even running extension cords across the street from homes with power to those without. The first annual Easter Egg Hunt took place in 2004. In 2006, the island and fountain at 69th and Edgevale underwent a major renovation. The first family Oktoberfest was held in 2008, replacing the former Halloween kiddie costume party.

And in 2009, a roundabout was constructed and landscaped at 68th Terrace & Pennsylvania. It was actually reconstructed, as one had been there decades before...

Along the way we have also had the holiday lighting contest, movie nights, block parties, the annual meeting/picnic and many, many special times that make our neighborhood the best place to live. I feel honored to have chronicled the times and especially the wonderful people here. Thank you! It's been a pleasure.

— Jan Flanagan, The Once and Always Newsy Neighbor of the Armour Fields Homes Association

A Farewell From Your Editor

Just as Jan Flanagan has done in her accompanying final column, I would like to take just a minute to thank the Armour Fields board of directors and neighbors, upon my departure from the editorship of the *Armour Star*.

During my 19 years as editor I have had the privilege of serving under (I believe) six different Armour Fields board presidents and many members of the board of directors, all of whom have been delightful with which to work. We are indeed honored to have such dedicated volunteers willing to share their time and impressive talents for the benefit of our neighborhood.

My special thanks go to Jan Flanagan for her terrific neighborhood news columns, and to our advertisers who have supported us through the years.

You are in excellent hands with Shelley Cetin, your new editor, who will make this newsletter even better, I'm sure!

Don Dagenais, Editor

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for Armour Fields*

If I Were A Thief...I could break into your vehicle and steal your things, or the vehicle itself, in about the time it would take you to read this sentence. Your stuff could be gone that fast! But you can do some things to stop me, or simply convince me to victimize someone else.

- Always lock your vehicle with the windows rolled up. Almost half the thefts that occur are from an unlocked vehicle. If a target is too hard, the thief will often move on.

- Do not leave items of value in plain view inside your vehicle. A thief will look for things like cell phones, radios, briefcases, laptops, purses, packages, CDs, GPS devices, and other stuff that means quick cash

for them. Even loose change could attract a thief. Take anything that looks valuable with you or secure it in the trunk.

- Know when and where to place valuables in your trunk. Criminals could be watching you arrive at your parking destination – so if you use your trunk to secure valuables, do so well before you park.

- If you have an anti-theft device, use it. Criminals like to work fast and quietly; so they do not like an alarm being set, or a steering wheel “club” being put in place correctly.

- Do not leave your keys in your unoccupied vehicle. Even in a second, a thief could hop in your ride and be gone. They like to hang at convenience stores and they do not care if your kids have to go for a ride too.

- Remove GPS units/electronics as well as their indicators (mounts/chargers, etc...) Knowing people will simply place the device in the console or glove box, if a criminal sees indicators, they will often still break in and take their chances. Once they have your GPS, they know where you live and frequent.

Help Clear Our Sidewalks!

Please make sure you help your neighbors by keeping the sidewalks clear around your home. This includes parked cars, gates, mud and other obstructions. Many of our walkers relying on having a clear and safe path. Thank you!

The Right Time to Make a “MOVE” is Right Now
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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.

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