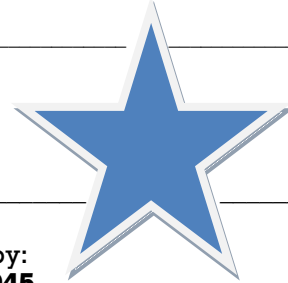




The Armour Star

The Newsletter of the Armour Fields Homes Association (AFHA),
including Homes in the Subdivisions of Armour Fields,
Meyer Circle and Romanelli Gardens.

c/o Homes Association of Kansas City
4200 Somerset, Suite 200
Prairie Village, KS 66208
(913) 385-2440



Security Services for the AFHA provided by:
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www.armourfields.org

September 2010

Big Changes at Southwest Affect AFHA Residents

*800-900 More Students Arrive; Changes Planned to
Compensate for Increased Traffic Flow*

By John Murphy, City Liaison

On August 30th 2010, 1100-1500 middle and high school students began classes at the old Southwest High School, now called Southwest Early College Campus (SWECC), located at 6512 Wornall Road. 800-900 new students are moving here from the now closed Westport Middle and High Schools, joining returning students. The addition of so many new students to SWECC has raised some concerns about increased traffic, parking, and, of course, crime. The Armour Fields Homeowners Association (AFHA) has been working all summer long, in conjunction with Greenway Fields to our north, Principal Steven Scraggs of SWECC, the City of Kansas City, KCMO School District board members and officials to make this a smooth transition. Following are the results of these meetings:

(See "SOUTHWEST," page 4.)

OKTOBERFEST DATE CHANGED!

October 2, 2010

Please note the changes for the 3rd
Annual AFHA Oktoberfest:

Block Captains Meet: 2:00 – 3:00

Oktoberfest: 3:00 – 6:00

**Romanelli Island,
69th & Wornall**

Join us for Oktoberfest 2010! We'll have something for everyone: German music, traditional German food and drink and the ever-popular pony rides for the kids.

Costumes are encouraged, so pull out those lederhosen, put on your clogs, get out the kids' Halloween gear and join us for yet another reminder of why we all love our neighborhood so much. Prost!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page 2	President's Column
Page 4	Changes at Southwest (Cont.)
Page 6	Parks & Islands – Updates
Page 8	Neighborhood News

President's Column

By Brian Hand, President

It has been a very exciting summer in the Armour Fields Homes Association, with lots of progress made to revitalize our parks and islands. It is great to see the wonderful monuments that were placed when our neighborhood was conceived



refreshed and renewed.

I would personally like to thank Jane Aylward for her hard work and management to ensure that we can do all of this by responsibly repurposing plantings and staying within our means. If you would like to get involved and donate your time or resources, please contact Jane. She is looking for more helping hands!

I have to thank all of the folks who ran for the director positions and the residents who either came to the annual meeting to vote or mailed in their ballots. I think that we have a great board that will work hard for our neighborhood. The election and annual meeting went well. I hope to see a larger turnout next year; the annual meeting is a great opportunity to get to know each other and discuss our neighborhood. A big thanks to Frank Schloegel, Armour Fields resident and owner of Woodyard Barbeque, for

and built from land that was once a golf course and before that a farm. I know we are all proud to live in this great area and now we can be prouder that we are able to have things

providing a wonderful meal at the meeting. I love that we can have a great value and support the businesses of our residents! As we continue the business of our association during this new board term, I would like to invite you to get involved. The Association could use your talent on many committees and projects: planning and maintaining parks and islands, caring for fountains, keeping Southwest High on the right track, maintaining our webpage, being a block captain and much more. Please contact me or the committee chairs involved in the areas that interest you for more information. ❖

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Armour Fields Homes Association Seeking Webmaster

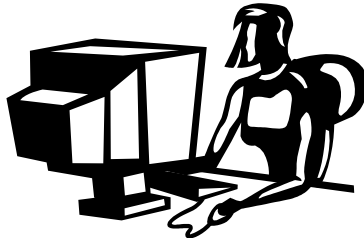
The Armour Fields Homes Association is looking for a volunteer webmaster to administer its website at www.armourfields.org. This is a small website, so the position would be perfect for a web-savvy high school or college student needing to build a résumé.

The person filling the position would need to make a minimum of a one-year commitment. Because the site is small, this position will not entail lots of hours, but the site will require regular oversight and updates. The successful candidate needs to be responsible and detail-oriented.

In return, the AFHA will, at the end of a one-year

satisfactory job fulfillment, provide a letter of recommendation for the student's future job search. This is a great opportunity for a student with little formal job experience to work with a professional, voluntary Board of Directors and interact with professionals who work with the Association.

If you would like to be considered for the position, contact Shelley Cetin (editor) or Brian Hand (president). ❖



MEET THE BOARD!

Pursuant to the elections held at the Annual Meeting in July, the following residents of the Armour Fields Homes Association now serve on the Board of Directors. Election results were verified by the Kansas City Election Board.

President: Brian Hand

Treasurer: Joe Giammanco

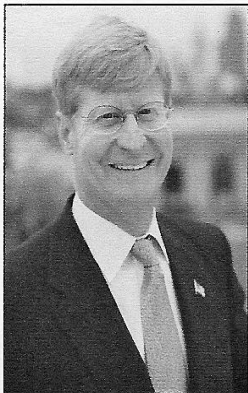
3-Year
Directors: Jane Aylward
Joe Giammanco
John Murphy

2-Year
Directors: Brian Hand
Peggy LaPierre
Hank VanArsdale

1-Year
Directors: Barbara Roche
Sarah Hancock
Jim Neihart

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SOUTHWEST

(Continued from page 1.)

■ To provide a safe atmosphere for the large number of students attending SWECC, KCMO has imposed a 25-mile-per-hour speed zone on Wornall Road from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. The city has repainted the walk in front of the school and plans to install flashing lights to warn motorists as they approach the school zone.

■ Buses will drop students off in the morning and pick them up at day's end. The buses will be available to take students home after school hours when they stay late. To minimize traffic, school buses have a designated route, entering the neighborhood at West 66th Terrace and leaving from West 65th Street. School buses will not be permitted to idle in the neighborhood.

■ Eventually, there will be a circular driveway on Wornall Road to allow buses to drop students off and pick them up in front of the school. Residents who see buses racing through the neighborhood are asked to call Principal Scraggs' office at 816-418-1800 and inform him immediately. There will be no street parking around the school. Students and faculty must park in the school; St. Andrews has made its parking lot available for overflow.

■ SWCCC will be a closed campus; students will not be permitted to leave its grounds. Residents who see students in the neighborhood during the day should call the principal's office. He will send an officer to collect the truant students.



■ Superintendent John Covington has ensured us that the security of the students and residents is of extreme concern. The school will be doubling the number of school district officers and adding a full-time Kansas City, Missouri police officer to SWECC's staff.

The current program at SWECC allows students to earn college credits at UMKC free of charge while attending SWECC. The school has a strong math and science focus and is backed not only by UMKC and Prep-KC but also by the prestigious Princeton-based Woodrow Wilson Foundation. The program offered at SWECC is one of only 13 in the United States. The Foundation and the city will be working together with neighborhood groups over the coming academic year for the continued success of this unique school as it undergoes all these changes. ❖

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Armour Fields Resident

BLOCK CAPTAINS IN THE AFHA

By Jim Neihart, Block Captain Co-Chair

As the co-chair of the Block Captains of our homes association, I am sometimes asked, "What should a block captain do?" For most of the nearly 50 years that we have lived in the AFHA, my family hasn't known our block captains. I went to work every day, our children grew up and we had no issues of consequence within the neighborhood. But things have changed a little. Homes values have greatly risen, making it vital to

maintain our area; the growth of our city makes it important that our neighborhood receive its share of city services; and working to secure our area is increasingly crucial. The Internet is full of suggestions for things that a block captain should do, such as:

- Assembling a block email list for communication.
- Informing the president of pertinent information.
- Encouraging social

activities for your block.

- Welcoming new neighbors on your block; seeing that they receive their welcome packets.
- Identifying a willing replacement when your term is over.

We are deeply grateful to our block captains. They are very important in making Armour Fields a great place to live and raise our families. ❖

PARKS AND ISLANDS – Repairs & Redesign

By Jane Aylward, Chair, Parks & Islands

Along with the old homes which are the hallmark of Brookside, the Armour Fields homes Association features parks, islands, fountains and statuary which add to its historical atmosphere. Recently, damage and age have necessitated considerable repairs and upkeep to ensure the value and appeal of these features. Much of the work has involved greenery. One such project is a new planting bed installed around the fountain at 67th and Wornall. This bed should keep trash and mulch out of the fountain and prevent daily cleaning. The area's meters are more concealed, plantings will provide year-round color and the grasses will move with the wind.

At Seville Park, the bagworm-

covered evergreens were pulled. (It took longer to remove the bagworms from the column capitals and twists than to pull the bushes!) Paul Benson, professional conservator, removed a "heavy layer of green, black and orange organic growths" and washed them with special detergent and brushes. The roses from the shady circle at 67th and Valley were transplanted to this area, where they should fill in this fall and next spring. We will be adding more evergreens as funds become available. If you would like to repaint the sign (I can make a stencil for it), please let me know.

The tall yews around the dancing cherubs at 67th and Valley were keeping the sunlight from killing off the "green and black organic growth" on the statues and their bases. After removing the yews, Mr. Benson cleaned and treated the stone. This fall, we'll plant boxwood around the cherubs, which, over time, will be trimmed to form an arch around each cherub, giving a background for their performances.

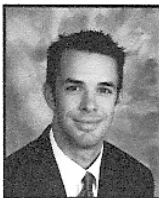
There are beautiful, mature trees on this island, but it would be nice to add smaller, spring-flowering trees,. We will plant flowers in front of the cherubs when planting the beds.

Mr. Benson also restored the white marble urn at Ward Parkway Park. You didn't know it was white or marble, did you? Two tiers of boxwood around the perimeter now protect it from vandals. We will add a third, shorter row of boxwood and low-growing junipers next spring (or as funds become available) to make it annoying and difficult to wade into the bed and rock the urn loose.

See "Parks & Islands," page 9.

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SAFE & SECURE

By Brian Hand, Security Chair

Lately there have been several vehicle-related thefts in our neighborhood. These thefts have involved break-ins and theft of high-end accessories like premium wheels from the exterior of vehicles. While there is no way to stop all instances of theft from your vehicle, you can do several easy things to protect your car from criminals. Using these tips will make your vehicle less of a target and harder to steal.

- Take your keys with you; by leaving them in your vehicle, even in the garage you are basically giving your vehicle to a thief and making the theft easier.

- Hide valuable items when parking on streets or in parking garages or other public places. Cell phones, GPSs and MP3 players are easy to grab, so put them out of sight. Hide their mounts as well, because they advertise that you may have left valuables behind.

- Keep your windows closed if possible; even a slightly open window makes it easy for a criminal to get in.

- Park your locked car in your garage when possible and lock the garage. When parking away from home, use lots with security guards or cameras.

- Install and use car alarms, “kill switches,” tracking systems or other security systems.

- Use locking fasteners and covers for your license plates and locking lug nuts for your wheels.

- Record your VIN and license plate numbers in a safe place where you can easily access them if your vehicle is stolen. ❖



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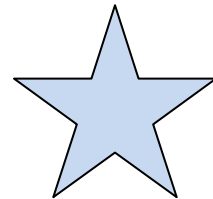
ATTENTION **BLOCK** **CAPTAINS**

There will be a meeting of all block captains from 2:00 to 3:00 on Saturday, October 2nd, before the start of the AFHA Oktoberfest celebration.

Meet at Romanelli Island at 69th and Wornall.

Oktoberfest begins at 3:00, so please join your neighbors for the food, fun and music after the meeting!

ADVERTISING



The Armour Star reaches approximately 800 homes in our neighborhood and accepts advertisements at competitive rates. Residents of the Armour Fields Homes Association receive a 20% discount. Don't have an ad? We can help you create one!

For information, contact the editor, Shelley Cetin, at 816-588-2817 or email her at sdcetin@hotmail.com.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Kelley Funk Slagle, Contributor

How quickly the dog days of summer fly by! School is in session and children are running on the track at Southwest. A reminder if you let your furry friends run free: please don't forget to pick up your dog's waste. Some very helpful neighbors collect the trash bags every week; just toss the waste into one of the bags and off it goes! And if you see a "gift" that isn't yours, toss it in too. The children will appreciate it.

What a big summer we have had! I have taken on the task of passing along the neighborhood news and encourage you to e-mail me throughout the year with noteworthy information.

Brian Hand would like to thank residents who participated in our Summer Party. The pony rides, fire trucks, delicious food and wonderful company made it a HUGE success! Thanks to all those who took time out from the festivities to update me on your neighborhood news and to my wonderful neighbors on the 400 block of 67th Street who watched my kids, hauled a box or lent a hand as we moved in June. Your help was greatly appreciated!

We would like to welcome some new faces joining in the festivities this year. See the "New Neighbors" section on page 12 to learn who's new on your block. Please stop by,

introduce yourself, and say 'hi' if you haven't already.

Lynette and Nick Callegari have had a busy summer. They took time out of their whirlwind tour of Wichita, Iowa and Las Vegas to enjoy the picnic with their neighbors.

The young residents of the AFHA have been doing big things this summer. On Romany Road, Catherine Ebbitts, daughter of Mark and Lisa, took 1st in the ten-and-under dive meet at Carriage Club this year.

See "NEIGHBORS," page 10.



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Parks & Islands

(Continued from page 6.)

There are beautiful, mature trees on this island, but it would be nice to add smaller, spring-flowering trees. We will plant flowers in front of the cherubs when planting the beds.

Mr. Benson restored the white marble urn at Ward Parkway Park – you didn't know it was white or marble, did you? Two tiers of boxwood now protect it from vandals. We will add a third, shorter row of boxwood and low-growing junipers next spring (or as funds become available) to make it annoying and difficult to enter the bed and rock the urn loose.

Someone accidentally went "off-roading" at Wornall and 68th Street, taking out several yews, the bench, an urn and the streetlight. We have pulled the shrubs and will work with neighbors to restore and improve the flower bed.

The Ward Parkway Park is a work in progress. Funds in our 503C paid for the boxwood; we are asking the city to pay for tall evergreens to hide the

electrical boxes. The city has allocated lighting for this area, and a volunteer lighting designer will trade the "billboard" lights on legs for subtle, energy-efficient ground-level lighting. Look for changes this fall.

At Seville Park, a car sheared off one of the ginkgos at rear-view-mirror height recently. This did not seem to be accidental: tracks on the north and south sides of the park came from the east, stopping just short of the bench. The replacement and installation costs for this tree are considerable, so if you have any information about this incident, please contact me as we would like to have the responsible party pay for the damage.

We are always in looking for volunteers to help maintain our beautiful parks, fountains, and islands. Please contact Jane Aylward if you would like to help. ❖

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I ask for your vote on
November 2!

NEIGHBORS

Continued from page 8.

Catherine Ebbitts, daughter of Mark and Lisa, took 1st in the ten-and-under dive meet at Carriage Club this year. Casey O'Flaherty, son of Joe and Julie, heads to Rockhurst College on a golf scholarship while Patrick Simon, son of Jeff and Amy, heads to the University of Missouri. On West 68th Terrace, Claire O'Neill, daughter of Terry and Nancy, has graduated from St. Teresa's. Congratulations to you all!

Martha Staker of 70th Street has spread her wonderful energy to children throughout our city. On July 16th the Kansas City Star featured an article on the new KCK Children's Campus, a labor of love for Martha. She followed her passion for children and education and the result is a program that supports the entire community. We are proud to have her in our great neighborhood. ❖

ARE YOU SMARTER THAN YOUR NEIGHBOR?

Most of us know that J.C. Nichols was behind the development of our homes association. He admired European art and architecture and adopted the Plaza's "flavor" from Spain and Italy. Indeed, the nearby Plaza is a virtual outdoor museum. Mr. Nichols wanted art to enhance the beauty of our area and looked to Europe for sources. Our Romanelli fountain, for instance, hails from Italy! Thank goodness Mr. Nichols' wanderlust led him to Europe. Today, Kansas City is second only to Rome in number of fountains... and we don't need a passport or a plane ticket to visit! S.C.

YOUR AFHA DUES AT WORK



Remember the 2009 Christmas Eve blizzard? On the 400 block of W. 67th Terrace, snow buried holiday luminaries before we could light them! Luckily, though, we were able to leave our subdivisions while many metro residents couldn't get out for days. But KCMO didn't send those snow plows. The AFHA contracts with a service to clear our streets. It's just one of the ways your homes association dues come back to you. S.C.

Our appreciation for your continued support in this challenging market. Thanks for your confidence!



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803 W. 68th Terrace

Clayton & Kelley Funk
1001 W. 66th Street

Ryan Gound & Kathleen Hammer
654 W. 69th Terrace

Stephen & Suzanne Limpic
611 W. 70th Street

Matthew & Marlys McGee
420 W. Dartmouth

Ronald Murphy
608 Romany Road

David & Carole Roemer
6529 Jefferson

Jennifer Weber
1008 W. 70th Street ❖

ARE YOU A GOOD NEIGHBOR?

We all want to enjoy our neighborhood and make it as safe as possible for everyone. But did you know about the following legal responsibilities for residents?

Keep Street Gutters Clean:

You are responsible for keeping any street gutters in front of your property free of debris, which could block the flow of water. Promptly remove leaves, branches and trash from the gutters to prevent street flooding.

Always Keep Your Dog on its Leash:

Your dog may not be off leash or off a chain outside of a fenced property or outside an "off-leash dog area." The code of ordinances for the City of Kansas City, Missouri, § 6:31, Section 14-33 states:

It shall be unlawful for any person owning, keeping or harboring any dog to permit, suffer or allow the dog to run at large within the city. For the purpose of this section, any dog shall be deemed to have been permitted, suffered or allowed by its owner, keeper



or harborer to run at large when found outside of the residence structure of the owner, keeper or harborer and not effectively physically restrained on a chain or leash or behind a suitable fence or other proper method of physical restraint from which it cannot escape. (Underlining mine.)

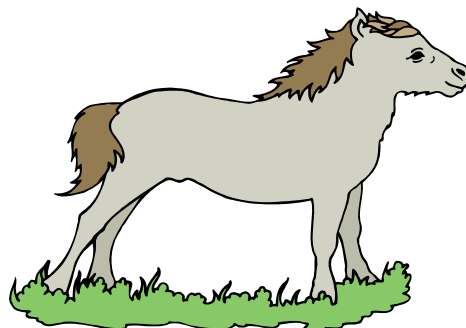
Fines for allowing a dog to run at large range from \$75 - \$500.

Even the gentlest dog can become unpredictable. There are many small children in our area and many people walk their dogs here, so please, protect your dog and others by keeping it on its leash. S.C.

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COME TO OKTOBERFEST!



Armour Fields Homes Association Board of Directions

President/ Safety & Security	Brian Hand	416 W. Dartmouth	444-1185	thehand@everestkc.net
Treasurer	Joe Giammanco	1001 W. 70 th Terrace	268-6167	jgiammanco@connectedpay.com
Secretary/	Barbara Roche	431 W. 68 th Street	444-4856	
Parks & Islands	Jane Aylward	649 W. 67 th Terrace	333-7587	aylwardclan@everestkc.net
Special Events	Barbara Roche	431 W. 68 th Street	444-4856	
	Sarah Hancock	645 W. 70 th Street	444-1574	sarahdarla@sbcglobal.net
City Liaison	John Murphy	449 W. 68 th Street	729-5222	kellynjohnmurphy@aol.com
Block Captains	Peggy LaPierre	669 W. 70 th Street	333-4481	margaret_lapierre@us.afiac.com
	Jim Neihart	6955 Valley Road	444-3487	jcneihart@yahoo.com
Fountains	Hank VanArsdale	660 W. 69 th Terrace	333-6691	vanarsdales@everestkc.net

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 yearly 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, Shelley Cetin, at sdcetin@hotmail.com.

The Armour Star
 Armour Fields Homes Association
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 Romanelli Gardens and Meyer Circle Subdivisions
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