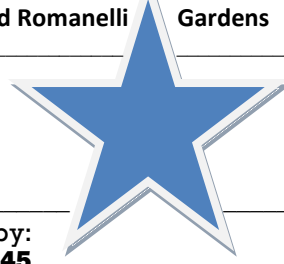


The Armour Star

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:
Chesley Brown International (816) 753-2945



www.armourfields.org

November 2012

OCTOBERFEST DRAWS CROWDS DESPITE COLD WEATHER

By Shelley Cetin, Chair, Special Events

Even a spell of chilly autumn weather couldn't scare away crowds of Armour Fields residents who gathered on October 8.

Always the most popular community-building event of the AFHA, the Octoberfest didn't disappoint celebrants this year. An estimated 200 people dished up delicious choices from Woodyard Bar-B-Que (including possibly the best roast chicken ever). Bledsoe's Rentals generously donated space heaters to keep the tents more comfortable while DJ Kurt of Sound Extreme Entertainment provided a vibrant mix of German and popular music. Little residents had yet another chance to ride the ever-popular ponies, many hopping off to get back in line for another ride.

Claire and I were happy to meet and talk to so many of you. Thanks for making this event successful! ◇

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Hank Van Arsdale, President

After a challenging summer, we have had a great fall season here in the Armour Fields Homes Association. Our lawns seem to be recovering well and now we are fighting the annual leaf curse. By the way, each of us is responsible keeping the street gutters that abut our property clear of leaves, so please make the extra effort to pick them to keep sewer drains clear. The extra effort will make Armour Fields look better. If you have a neighbor who is unable to clean up their leaves, please think about helping – it would make a great Thanksgiving present.

Octoberfest was a great success, and we were glad to meet so

many of you. A huge thanks goes to our board of directors, particularly Shelley Cetin, Claire Terrebonne, Ron McMickle, and Joe Giammanco, who were instrumental in making it special for everyone. We even noticed former President Brian Hand helping with the clean-up. Many others were very helpful and we thank them.

The second fall leaf clean-up was also a great success. It has already become a well-liked tradition. This year we had some volunteers out cleaning gutters and sewers. Thanks to all of them for their help.

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Continued from page 1.

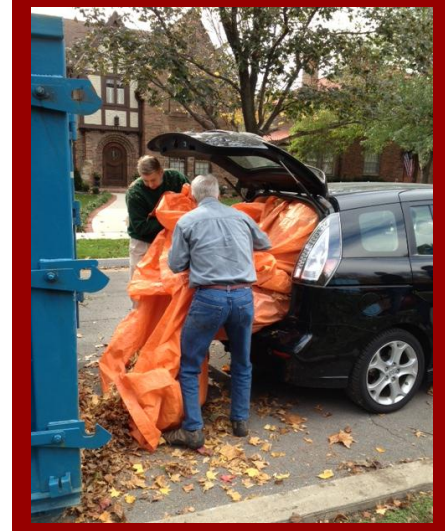
Each year HA-KC hosts the Annual All Boards Dinner for all the homes associations in our group. This year the special guest speaker was Paul Benson, who spoke on caring for the art in our areas. Paul is Conservator of Objects at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. The bronze atop our Romanelli Fountain was one of the featured objects.

The holiday season is upon us so we want to thank all those who spend so much time lighting their homes. Armour Fields is the best place in all of Kansas City to go for seeing lights – all the tours know it. This is one of the unique things that make Armour Fields special. Please keep up the good

work! Remember: the holiday lighting will be judged on Friday, December 14.

In other Board-related news, Sarah Hancock resigned her position for family reasons. We want to thank her for her service, especially her untiring work on Special Events.

The board is committed to improving the AFHA so watch for some new initiatives including replacing trees, updating islands, and improving communication with our members. ♦



Dedicated volunteer Craig McKim helps a neighbor empty leaves at the fall Lawn & Leaf Clean-Up.
Thanks, Craig!

LAWN & LEAF CLEAN-UP: WORK & FUN!

As seen in the images on this page, the October 27th Lawn & Leaf Clean-Up gave residents a chance to spiff up their properties while enjoying the crisp fall air. Lawn debris filled three dumpsters before the event ended. Board members helped unload vehicles and empty debris. Look for another clean-up in the spring.



Board members John Murphy and Joe Giammanco (left to right) helped neighbors clean street gutters, emptying leaves into the dumpsters, a dirty but apparently fun job!

*Your neighbor selling our
neighborhood.*



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2012 Holiday Lighting Contest: Decorate by December 13th!

Once again, the AFHA is getting into the spirit with our annual Holiday Lighting Contest. The deadline for decorating has been extended to Friday, December 14th, so if you haven't yet hung those lights, there's still time!

As always, the Board of Directors will judge holiday decorations. This year we've added a new category. Prizes will be awarded to winners!

Award Categories:

Best Block
Best Theme
Most Colorful
Most Elaborate
Most Elegant
Most Original

Look for fliers from block captains to remind you about this event as the date nears.



VOLUNTEER CORNER: Kelley Slagle Funk

From time to time, the Armour Star highlights the contributions of a resident whose volunteer efforts show a true commitment to our Association. This month, the AFHA Board of Directors would like to recognize Kelley Slagle Funk for her contributions to the Armour Star Newsletter.

For the last two years, Kelley (who has a young family and thus no great amount of free time!) has worked to gather news from residents throughout the AFHA and further donated time to put together her highly enjoyable column.

If you attended last year's Octoberfest or this year's Annual Meeting, you've seen her, notepad and pencil in hand (and maybe a sign on her back!), meeting residents and taking down information about new family members, graduations, moves, and successes. Kelley does this hard work with a smile. Indeed, her friendly demeanor is no doubt one reason she is able to compile such a lengthy column in every issue: everyone loves talking to her!

If you see Kelley, please let her know that you appreciate her hard work. The Board of Directors certainly does! ♦

THE AFHA NEEDS YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!

Your homes association is moving into the Cloud, making the switch to electronic communications. We are currently asking residents to sign up for an email distribution list to be used to send you this newsletter as well as security alerts, special event announcements, and other important information. Your signing up will ensure that you receive information quickly and without fail. The distribution service protects the privacy of all enrollees; your email address will never be sold or given to other parties. To sign up, go to the website of the Homes Associations of Kansas City: <http://www.ha-kc.org/index.php/moassoc/42-armour-fields?layout=blog>



FACEBOOK FAN?

The AFHA is on Facebook! Find out what's going on in your homes association. Search "Armour Fields" and "like" our page!

MONEY MATTERS

by Joe Giammanco, Treasurer

The Armour Fields Homes Association (AFHA) board is comprised of nine volunteer AFHA member residents who have a fiduciary duty to the members of the association. Our annual budget includes expenses for items which benefit the membership, such as the community-building Oktoberfest party; maintenance services for our parks, islands, fountains, and statuary; low-cost clean-up opportunities through the Leaf and Brush dumpsters; security patrols by Chesley Brown paid through the security fund; and capital improvements which are aesthetically pleasing.

The board is currently generating ideas for the long-range plan which will guide our financial decisions. The long-range plan will include details

on the maintenance, capital improvement, security, communication, and community goals the AFHA board has for the association.

The board's goal is for Armour Fields to be a great place to live. The board will make our long-range planning decisions based on the direction we would like the association to move towards. We need input from the members to ensure the association continues to meet the needs and wants of its members. With your input, the board will continue to meet our fiduciary duty to ensure the financial plans align with the wishes of the majority membership.

Residents who wish to communicate ideas regarding the long-range plan for the

AFHA may contact any director. Our contact information is always listed on the last page of this publication.◇



**CELEBRATE
KWANZAA**

**December 26-
January 1**

Bledsoe's Keeps Oktoberfest Warm

AFHA owes many thanks to Bledsoe's Rental (on Wornall) for donating two patio heaters that kept residents warm at Oktoberfest on Saturday, October 6, 2012. They offer a HUGE selection of rental tools and equipment, as well as lawn and garden equipment sales and repairs.

"Bledsoe's Rental is your Kansas City Rental Yard!" Check them out at 7749 Wornall Road, Kansas City, MO, 64114. They're open Monday through Saturday from 7:30AM to 6:00PM.

Call (816) 363-5660 or find Bledsoe's online at

www.bledsoesrental.com.

Thank You,
Bledsoe's, for your
generosity to the
AFHA!
Happy 2013!



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Contributed by Kelley Slagle Funk

What a beautiful fall it is in our neighborhood! It is wonderful to see so much hustle and bustle in the front yards after such a brutally hot summer. Despite the heat, many fabulous neighbors attended the Armour Fields annual meeting and picnic this summer. Thank you to all who took time to pass along the neighborhood news!

Daniella McKim reports that the Dartmouth Road Bunko group is having a great time in all types of weather.

Several families have news to report about their college students. The Migliazzo family is flying their O.U. flag proudly this year. Craig and Kelly Nulan of Edgevale Road are thrilled that their daughter, Esme, is heading off to new adventures at Tufts this fall. She graduated from Pembroke Hill this past spring. Brianna Casey, daughter of Michael and Yolanda Casey, joins older sister Miikaela at Creighton this fall. They are representing Armour Fields along with John Heiman, son of John & Catherine, who also kicks off the fall at Creighton. John graduated last spring from Rockhurst. Congratulations Esme, Brianna, and John!

There is also exciting family news for several AFHA residents. Russ and Clare Wilson of the 600 block of 70th Street are thrilled to welcome their third daughter, Cordelia. Barbara Roche has another child migrating to the Washington D.C. area. Her son, Christopher, joined his

older sisters in our nation's capital this fall. Good luck Christopher!

Logan P. Keech, Attorney-at-Law, just passed the Kansas Bar and was sworn in at the Capitol in Topeka in September. Admitted to the Missouri Bar last year, Logan, son of John & Camilla, practices at C. Anderson Russell in Lee's Summit. Congratulations Logan!

At the Annual Meeting, Peggy LaPierre spoke about the importance of properly picking up after your dogs. Just a friendly reminder that stepping into a pile of dog mess can ruin a beautiful walk, so please remember your waste bags and take a moment to pick up those "remnants". Thank you!

Another reminder: the new ordinance in Kansas City requires all yard signs to be placed at least 10 feet from the curb. Thanks to those AFHA businesses who are complying and keeping our association beautiful.

It is with much excitement that we welcome a new church into our neighborhood. The Christ Community Church worked all summer to renovate the amazing church on 67th Street. Previously the Sixth Church of Christ Scientist, it had been empty and in need of repairs. How fortunate we are that this organization has restored this landmark so beautifully! Services started on Sunday, September 30th.

Finally, a big THANK YOU to Lori Woods of 5B Candle Company for providing lovely "welcome kits" to our new residents. Lori offers these at no charge to the Association and we greatly appreciate her generosity. Thank you Lori and 5B! ♦



Merry.
Christmas

THE ARMOUR FIELDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Block Captains – Rodd Staker
City Liaison – John Murphy
Fountains – Hank Van Arsdale
Parks & Islands – Jane Aylward
President – Hank Van Arsdale
Safety & Security – Ron
McMickle
Special Events – Shelley Cetin
and Claire Terrebbonne
Treasurer – Joe Giammanco

Problem or question? Contact a
Board member.

Parks & Islands

By Jane Aylward, Chair
Parks & Islands Committee

AN AFHA WISH LIST:

* A sprinkler system or hydrant is needed at Ward Parkway Park to care for plantings. We need benches and additional trees at the same park.

* In the spring, we will need volunteers to water urns. Please call me if you can sign up for a week.

* Volunteers are needed to make one-month commitments to maintain a park or island – to water urn flowers, pick up litter, or notify me if there is a

landscaping need. For the past few years, Ron McMickle has been maintaining Romanelli Park in this way.

* If you hear a traffic accident, please jump off the couch or out of bed and get the car license plate number so their insurance, not ours, will pay for the damages—\$20,000 within the past 2 years. Thank you to the neighbors on 68th Street for doing so.

* If you would like to make a memorial contribution or sponsor a tree, bench, roses or

other items through our tax-deductible 503C fund, please let me know.

AND A FEW DON'TS

* The columns at Seville have rusty iron rods on top. Please don't allow children to play on them.

* Please don't allow children to hit the sprinkler heads at Romanelli Island with wiffle ball bats. Resulting damage costs all residents through our dues.

Continued on page 8.

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Two neighbors take advantage of the AFHA's best event value. With dumpsters subsidized by the City of KCMO, the Lawn & Leaf Clean-Up costs the AFHA less than 21cents per residence!

ADVERTISING

The Armour Star reaches 788 homes and accepts advertisements at competitive rates. AFHA residents receive a 20% discount.



For information, contact the editor, Shelley Cetin, at 816-588-2817 or email her at toto_fan19@yahoo.com.

Photo Fun at the Fall 2012 Lawn & Leaf Clean-Up



Can you spot the volunteers? Brian Hand and Craig McKim, AFHA residents, mugged for (or hid from) the camera at the October 28th Lawn & Leaf Clean-Up.



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WATCH YOUR MAILBOX!

The surprise booklet is about life's lessons. "The Gospel According to Jake" is written by our neighbor George Dooley, who is retired from Hallmark Cards. I was so inspired that I am sending it to you.

DECLUTTER WITH FENG SHUI

You are invited to a new discussion group led by Ann Hyde about *Decluttering and Organizing* using the principles of Feng Shui. This has worked for me and was a trigger for my taking 42 boxes to the shredder and donating a ton of items for recycling and reuse. Call, text, or email me with your interest. ann@annhyde.com 913-980-5555

Parks & Islands

Continued from page 6.

* If you have a complaint about a park or island, please call me. Contractors do not have the authority to address problems; some have bowed out of bidding because they don't want to deal with "additional supervisors." This can cost the association money.

* Please do not let your dogs urinate on the shrubs in the park.

Our parks and islands make our neighborhood a lovelier place, but there is much to repair, replace, and improve. We stretch the budget as far as we can, so all contributions make a difference.

Thank you everyone for your interest, good ideas, and helping hands. ◇

And now...for a Bear's-Eye View of Winter

Furry Bear

If I were a bear
And a big bear too,
I shouldn't much care
If it froze or snow;
I shouldn't much mind
If it snowed or friz -
I'd be all fur-lined
With a coat like his!



For I'd have fur boots and a brown fur wrap,
And brown fur knickers and a big fur cap.
I'd have a fur muffle-ruff to cover my jaws,
And brown fur mittens on my big brown paws.
With a big brown furry-down up to my head,
I'd sleep all the winter in a big fur bed.

By A.A. Milne

Dogs in South KC give Pooches' Paradise 2 paws up!

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Joe Giammanco, Armour Fields Resident

SAFE and SECURE

by Ron McMickle, Chair
Safety & Security

Crime statistics: I review several sources of crime stats as well as alerts of a time-sensitive nature on a weekly basis. Some of you who receive the KC Star and read the Neighborhood News section may remember the Neighborhood Watch portion in that supplement showing recent crime activities. This report is somewhat dated and is not always published weekly, but it does give you an indication of the date, type of crime and block where it occurred. I now rely on weekly stats sent from the KCPD directly for their Metro Patrol Division Area. This area is huge, roughly bordered by Bannister Road on the south, on the north by 63rd,

on the west by State Line, and on the east by 71 Highway. The AFHA is about 1/100 of this Metro area and statistically speaking has less than 1/4 of 1 per cent of the crime. (Of course, some crimes are committed by individuals passing by, not crimes against people or property in the AFHA.) The figure also includes reports from Southwest High School. In reviewing these reports, I will send alerts of activity in the area via our block captains. Please help us in reporting suspicious activity to Chesley Brown, our contracted security company, at 816-753-2945, or to the KCPD at 911.

Recent Activity: Several reports of salesmen in the area in the last 4 to 6 weeks have resulted in calls to Chesley Brown security. Some of the salesmen are very aggressive and seem unable to take a polite "No, thank you" for an answer. If this occurs, or if you feel threatened or pressured, please contact Chesley Brown.

Regarding salespeople in general soliciting in AFHA, legally they are allowed access provided they have applied for and received a permit to do solicitations in Kansas City. The board is currently attempting to receive a copy of the permit so that we can distribute an image of the permit to our residents. In the meantime, you may ask to see a copy of the permit to see if the organization has gone through the proper procedures. ◇



WELCOME HOME TO YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH


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AFHA BOARD TERMS

Listed below in alphabetic order are the names of the current AFHA Board of Directors along with end dates of their terms. Contact any director for information

2013 Jane Aylward, Joe Giammanco, and John Murphy

2014 Shelley Cetin and Rodd Staker

2015 Ron McMickle, Claire Terrebonne, and Hank Van Arsdale



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CALL FOR DIRECTORY ADVERTISEMENTS

The AFHA is preparing to issue its directory, published every other year. The ads in the AFHA Directory pay for publishing costs, and many of the ads come from owners of local businesses. Would you like your ad to appear in the 2012 Directory? Contact Joe Giammanco for information.



**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR
AFHA!**



WELCOME TO THE AFHA

**The AFHA welcomes our
new neighbors!**

- * Jim Boley 7059 Valley Road
- * Dustin Burton & Kelsy Marr, 617 W. Dartmouth
- * Phillip Charlton, 6526 Pennsylvania
- * Jose Cifuentes & Meredith Mandel, 1007 W. 66th Terrace
- * Kenneth & Lorie Crandell, 424 W. 70th Terr.
- * Mark & Denise Dudenhoeffer, 633 W. 70th Terrace
- * David Guezuraga, 634 W. 69th Terrace
- * Bryce Katz, 450 W. 68th Street
- * Cade & Sara Keenan, 434 W. 69th Street
- * Kevin Legenza, 1015 Romany
- * Ann Martin, 1009 W. 69th Terrace
- * Jason & Caroline Mudd, 1001 W. Romany
- * Thomas & Amanda Mueller, 6508 Pennsylvania
- * Barry & Michele Nelson, 811 W. 69th Terr.
- * Nathan & Alison Saucier, 1015 W. 69th St.
- * Laila Abumadian Smith, 424 W. 67th St.
- * Bradley & Angela Simmons, 625 W. 66th Terrace
- * Scott & Katherine Thein, 431 W. 70th St.
- * Kaylen Tiefenbrunn, 629 W. Dartmouth

Please take a moment to stop by and extend holiday greetings to our new residents!



KEEPING SAFE DURING THE HOLIDAYS AND YEAR-ROUND

Updates provided by the KCMO Metro Police Department

For more details, go to: www.kcmo.org/police/BoundaryMap/MetroPatrolDivision/CrimePrevention/index.htm

“Operation Pawntrace”

The Kansas City Missouri Police Department started this program to alert citizens about the importance of recording the serial numbers of personal property.

Approximately 30,000 property crimes are reported each year in Kansas City, Missouri. The overwhelming majority of these crimes involve the theft of property from law-abiding citizens. The chances of being the victim of a property crime are far greater than any other crime. You can help fight these types of crimes by recording the description and serial numbers of your personal property.

This is a program conducted by the Kansas City Missouri Police Department, as well as numerous other police agencies all over the United States. You simply mark your property with your Missouri Driver’s License Number, followed by KCMO, (Example 123456789KCMO), by using an engraver. (Never use your Social Security Number as an identifier.) If your property is lost or stolen, it can be traced back to you by the police. Simply mark your property with an engraver, inventory the items, recording the make, model, and serial number, as well as where you marked the item. Then place your property list in a safe place, so that if you ever need to provide the police with the information, you have it. This program works, but only if you mark your property and record the serial numbers. The following is



an example of how this program could work for you.

Let’s say that you are out for the evening and a thief enters your residence, steals your TV and VCR, and leaves the area in a vehicle. Several miles away from your house the thief pawns your property at a pawn shop. The pawn shop employee enters the information into a database accessible to the police department. This database is checked daily by property crimes detectives. Once you file a police report with the requested information, the pawned items can be located, along with suspect information. If you do not mark your property, the thief, and your property may not be recovered.

The KCPD is committed to working with our citizens, neighborhoods, and businesses to make Kansas City a better place to live. Contact your Community Interaction Office for more information. ◇

Preventing Crime during the Holidays

Every year at this time, the Armour Star publishes information about how to prevent crimes such as burglary and theft. Here again are the recommendations of the KCPD, published with the hope that our

residents will enjoy a safe end to 2012 and an equally safe 2013!

1. Make sure that all windows and doors are secure.
2. If you have an alarm system, use it.
3. Utilize lights inside and outside your home. Use timers and motion sensors.
4. Make sure your neighbors know when you will be gone.
5. Have neighbors or friends collect your mail, newspapers, and door hangers while you're away.
6. Keep bushes trimmed down to prevent hiding places and trees trimmed up for good visibility.
7. Install deadbolt locks with 3/4 inch throws.
8. Install strong doorframes.
9. Be a good neighbor; watch out for one another.
10. Record the license and description of any suspicious vehicle or persons.
11. Don’t leave garage doors open.
12. Keep packages out of view from open windows.
13. Record all serial numbers and take part in the Kansas City Missouri Police Department’s “Operation Pawntrace” Program. (See left.) ◇



Armour Fields Homes Association Board of Directors

President/	Hank Van Arsdale	444-1185	vanarsdales@everestkc.net
Safety & Security	Ron McMickle		roncmickle@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Joe Giammanco	268-6171	jgiammanco@connectedpay.com
Secretary			
Parks & Islands	Jane Aylward	333-7587	aylwardclan@everestkc.net
Special Events	Shelley Cetin	588-2817	toto_fan19@yahoo.com
City Liaison	John Murphy	729-5222	kellynjohnmurphy@aol.com
Block Captains	Rodd Staker	333-3439	Romstaker@aol.com
Fountains	Hank VanArsdale	333-6691	vanarsdales@everestkc.net

The Armour Fields Homes Association is a non-profit organization whose board members 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 toto_fan19@yahoo.com

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The Armour Star
 Armour Fields Homes Association
 Incorporating Homes in the Armour Fields,
 Romanelli Gardens and Meyer Circle Subdivisions
 c/o Homes Associations of Kansas City
 4200 Somerset, Suite 216
 Prairie Village, KS 66208
www.armourfields.org

