



**A R M O U R
F I E L D S**

The Armour Star

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

Our security service:
Chesley Brown International
816-753-2945

c/o Homes Associations of Kansas City
4200 Somerset, Suite 216
Prairie Village, KS 66208, Tel. 913-385-2440

www.armourfields.org August 2013

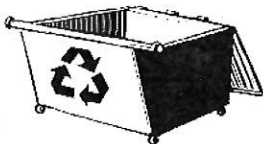
Fall Special Events

Octoberfest

October 12, 2013

4:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Romanelli Fountain



Fall leaf, Brush & Trash* Pick Up

Saturday, October 26

8:00 am to Noon

* A flyer will be sent
out with restrictions
on trash.

Late Breaking News

By Hank Van Arsdale

The Kansas City Public School Board has announced that the Walmart proposal to buy the Bingham School property to build a neighborhood market in Waldo has been refused. This is great news for the area. The board is giving up a lot of money to preserve this valuable land from this type of commercial use. The building, which studies have determined is not salvageable, will be scheduled for demolition, probably next year.

There were many voices at the town hall forum at Southwest HS calling for the KC School board to consider building a new middle school on that site if the Hale Cook School continues to grow, as expected. If Hale Cook does succeed, there will be a need for a local middle school in a few years. There are currently no viable educational options for those families.

The KC schools are on track to obtain provisional accreditation. If the expected improvement continues, full accreditation could

be achieved as early as next year. The school district has made major improvement in the last two years remains on a path of which we all can be very proud.

Possibly the best news of all that the school board seems to be listening to the voices of the people it serves. Strong public schools will give families with small children one more reason to remain in Armour Hills and surrounding areas enhancing our neighborhoods.

AFHA is looking for help with our Newsletter. In-Design experience helpful. Contact Hank Van Arsdale 816.333.6691

A great way to build your resume.

Parks and Islands

By Jane Aylward - Parks & Islands Chair

In the past few years, we have made many additions and improvements to our parks and islands. We tuckpointed stone and brick walls, cleaned and restored the statues and urns, added new lighting, new flowerbeds, trees and plants. Residents have used them to practice casting their fly rods, for throwing footballs, to play Barbies on a blanket under a shade tree, for Girl Scout meetings, graduation parties, marriage proposals and even a wedding. It is fun for us to be sure they are ready for your special event if you call ahead of time.

This year we have cleaned up ice and snow damage to the trees, replaced items we lost due to the hot, dry weather last year, trimmed

trees and focused on maintenance and watering. We will be planting more trees and spring-blooming bulbs this fall, but we will not be doing any major new work unless we have donations to our City of Fountains fund.

Next spring, if we don't blow the budget on storm clean-up, we hope to have enough money to paint the bollards at Romanelli Park, touch up paint on the canopy at 65th and Valley, paint the utility boxes in Ward Parkway Park and trim and plant more trees. Some neighbors have asked If we plan to paint and plant around the new utility boxes in the right-of-ways down Wornall, Valley, and Penn. If you agree, let me hear from you. We set the budget in February and March.

Special requests:

Please do not allow your dogs to use our boxwoods as stand-ins for fire hydrants—whether it is your early morning jog with your black dogs down Ward Parkway or your afternoon stroll to Cherub Island with your little light brown dog. Every time we lose a shrub to your bad pet-parenting it means we can't add trees or flowers somewhere else--7 so far this year.

Ditto the dark-haired woman who helped herself to the exotic parrot tulips on the islands in the spring, then in June clipped so many pink roses from the bushes on the south end of the Armour Fields marker at Ward Parkway park that we almost lost those 3 new rose bushes we had just planted to replace after we

(Continued on page 7)

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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, Hank Van Arsdale, 816.333.6691

Safety and Security

by Craig McKim – Chair

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I have lived in the neighborhood for six years and was recently elected to the Armour Fields Homes Association Board of Directors. I will be responsible for safety and security. In that capacity I have been maintaining contact with Chesley Brown, the private security service that patrols Armour Fields, the Kansas City Police Department and others in the neighborhoods that surround ours. When I learn of any significant crimes or incidents that have occurred in the area from these sources I will send out an email that will be distributed to the neighborhood via the Block Captains. If you are not on one of these distribution lists and would like to be added so you can receive security updates please let me know. It is very important that we are all aware of any crimes that occur in our neighborhood and watch out for each other. If you see anything that you think seems suspicious please call the Police at or Chesley Brown at 816.753.7973.

The security topic that I would like to focus on in this edition of the Armour Star is pedestrian and auto safety. It appears to me that in this neighborhood more people walk in the streets than on the sidewalks. I understand that some people are concerned about tripping on cracks, sliding around on sweetgum tree balls or strollers bouncing around on uneven surfaces so they choose to walk in the street. However, the street is for automobile traffic. I have seen people running and walking in the middle of the major streets in the neighborhood with headphones and they don't even seem to realize or care that cars are coming up behind them. Besides being unsafe

it is also inconsiderate. On one occasion early in the morning, just before full sunlight, I was leaving my home and as I turned a corner I had to swerve to avoid hitting someone that was walking in the street. It did not help that there were trees and shrubs near the corner, my windows had fogged up slightly and the person was wearing dark colors. My point is that you should walk on the sidewalk when you can and if you must walk in the street use some common sense by wearing bright colors, stay to the side, keep your dogs close to your side and be aware of cars since they may not be aware of you.

A couple of other related items I wanted to discuss have to do with keeping trees and bushes near sidewalks, drives and streets clear. As I walk around the neighborhood I am surprised at the number of people that allow tree branches to grow and hang low over sidewalks. This not only looks bad but can also pose eye injury risk to walkers and may even push people to walk out in the streets. Also, if you have bushes, trees or shrubs that are near driveways, sidewalks, streets and corners special attention should be paid to make sure they are kept trimmed. This should be done not just to keep a tidy appearance but also to eliminate any visual barriers that could block the sight of drivers and pedestrians. If you or one of you neighbors has low hanging branches or other vegetation that is an obstruction and are physically unable to cut them please let me know and I will be happy to do it and take away the trimmings.

If you have any safety and security related questions or suggestions please let me know.

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!

Michael & Victoria Anderson
6932 Edgevale
Thomas & Eileen Boogher
6501 Valley Road
Kevin & Susan Bradford
639 Romany Road
Gwen Breuer
420 West 70th Street
David Cascio Jennifer Zimmerman
628 Romany Road
Phil Fountain
1028 West 70th Terrace
Timothy & Erica Gaarder
6959 Valley Road
Thomas & Mollie Grever
1004 West 67th Street
Christopher Jones Sara Crump
619 West 70th Street
Brian Kirk
409 West 67th Street
Alexander Kopulos
1004 West 68th Terrace
Kelly & Lisa Mack
604 West 70th Terrace
Francesca Marques
621 West 70th Terrace
Kyle & Katherine Rowan
436 West 70th Terrace
Joseph & Lara Street
1008 West 67th Street
Kelly Sullivan
7030 Edgevale
Brent & Kathleen Wittrock
6527 Jefferson
Erik & Anastasia Wullschleger
704 West Gregory

Special Events

by Claire Terrebonne - Chair

Special Events: 2013 Wrap-Up

Special events are part of what make AFHA such a great neighborhood. They are among the many benefits our AFHA dues allow residents to enjoy throughout the year. Our special events provide opportunities to meet and mingle with your neighbors and build a better AFHA community. This year is no exception.

Recap:

Annual Easter Egg Hunt. In a few short minutes, the neighborhood's youngest residents hunted down 300+ Easter eggs filled with candy at AHFA's an-

nual Easter Egg Hunt. And, of course, the Easter Bunny made an appearance, posed for photos, and handed out treats. Thanks to everyone who made the event a success! We already can't wait until next year!

Annual Garage Sale. Numerous residents participated in the AFHA Annual Garage Sale, which brought scores of thrifty shoppers. We hope that you were able to make some ca\$\$h while unloading some unwanted items! Thanks to all those who participated and put up with the traffic!!

Annual Meeting. The neighborhood once again came together for our Annual Meeting in June. The purpose of the annual meeting is to hold annual elections and build community. The Board updated attendees on the various happenings in and services provided to the neighborhood, and residents

were able to ask questions and share concerns with the Board. The new neighborhood directory was also distributed and the election was held. Attendees then enjoyed Woodyard Bar-B-Que, cold drinks, and good company.

Election Results. At the Annual Meeting, residents re-elected Jane Aylward (3-year term) and

(Continued on Page 5)

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Special Events - Continued from Page 4

John Murphy (3-year term), and elected new board members Stuart Bintner (3-year term), Craig McKim (1-year term, filling vacancy), and Shannon Dover (1-year term, filling vacancy). Congratulations and welcome aboard!


What's Next:

Octoberfest. Our annual Octoberfest celebration is around the corner, so get out your lederhosen and Halloween costumes and join in the fun! As always, we'll have German food, a variety of drinks, a DJ playing a mix of German and other music, and pony rides for the kiddos. Come catch up with your neighbors and enjoy the party! **When:** October 12, 2013 @ 4:00pm. **Where:** Romanelli Fountain (69th & Wornall).

Fall Lawn/Leaf & Trash Clean-Up. It's that time of year to once again to clean up the yard and throw out the trash. AFHA will provide dumpsters for resi-

dents to dispose of yard waste and some trash items. If you have sweet gum trees, here's your chance to get rid of those dangerous sweet gum balls. Remember, this is for AHFA residents only, so bring ID with you. We will send out the details of what items are and are not permitted in the dumpsters via Block Captains and Facebook in the near future. **When:** October 26, 2013 from 8:00am-12:00pm. **Where:** The island at 69th & Pennsylvania.

Holiday Lighting and Decoration Contest. AFHA holiday lights and decorations really are a sight to see, drawing scores of admirers. And, they keep getting better each year. Let's make this year the best yet! All you have to do is put up your lights and you're entered. It's that easy! Prizes will be given to Most Elaborate, Most Elegant/Traditional, Most Original, Best Theme, and Best Block. **When:** Deadline TBD.



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Presidents Report

By Hank Van Arsdale

It has been an interesting summer for the AFHA Board. As many of you know our Newsletter Editor (Shelley Cetin) resigned. We have not had anyone volunteer for this important position so I am now the acting editor. I realize my limited capabilities so you will have to bear with me as I attempt to complete the newsletter.

At the well attended Annual meeting the following new board members were elected: Shannon Dover (70th Ter), Stu Bintner (70th St.), Wm. Craig McKim (Dartmouth). Re-elected were Jane Aylward and John Murphy. Congratulations to all of them.

There are two people to thank for the great parks and islands Armour

Hills enjoys: first, the tireless efforts of Jane Aylward in the planning and execution of the master plan within the limitations of our budget, and second, Chuck DiMartino of DiMartino and Sons who has the contract to take care of our parks & islands. Chuck does a fantastic job for us. A side note, Chuck's son, an armour Fields resident, was the fireman who was recently injured on the job when the floor on which he was standing collapsed and he fell into the basement. Before he could be rescued, he sustained second degree burns. After skin grafts he is now recovering at home and is doing well. If you see Chuck out working in our behalf,

you might thank him for his efforts. He takes care of Armour Fields like it was his own yard.

If you want to sign up for direct email of the Armour Star or direct security or event emails follow the following information: go the HA-KC website (www.ha-kc.org/index.php), then select Missouri Associations, then select Armour Fields. Then click on "Armour Fields Email Listing".

As always, if you have questions or concerns please contact any member of the AFHA board.

**Your neighbor selling
our neighborhood.**



Barbara Roche, CRS and GRI
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Parks & Islands Con't

lost to rabbits last year.

There are people with camera phones everywhere these days... they leave the photos in my mailbox--that's how I knew the tulips and roses had been snipped by the same person!

NUISANCE SIGNS, AN OLD CITY CODE WITH NEW LEGS

3 members of the Armour Fields board attended a KCMO "nuisance sign" training session with the Armour Hills board this August. Nuisance signs include ANY sign in the right of way or attached to

a utility pole or street sign not put there by the city or a utility to give direction. Everything else has to be 10' inside the curb--both curbs if on a corner. This includes real estate signs, fundraising event signs, run/walk/marathon signs, nail salon signs, deck, construction, house cleaning, soccer camp, oriental rug sales, estate sales... ALL signs. Anyone who lives in KCMO can pull and dispose of a nuisance sign, but if you take a photo and send it to John Parks at john.parks@kcmo.org, who heads the city department in charge of enforcement, the city will send a

letter, asking the responsible party to remove the sign within 2 days. If they do not, the city will remove the sign or call us to pick it up for them and send a \$25 fine for the first offense. The fines multiply for each sign, which is considered a separate offense. We have a mild problem with this compared to some busy intersections in the city, but the code will be applied to everyone. It is going to be very expensive for some companies and marketing firms until they stop using these mini-billboards to clutter up the city.



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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.

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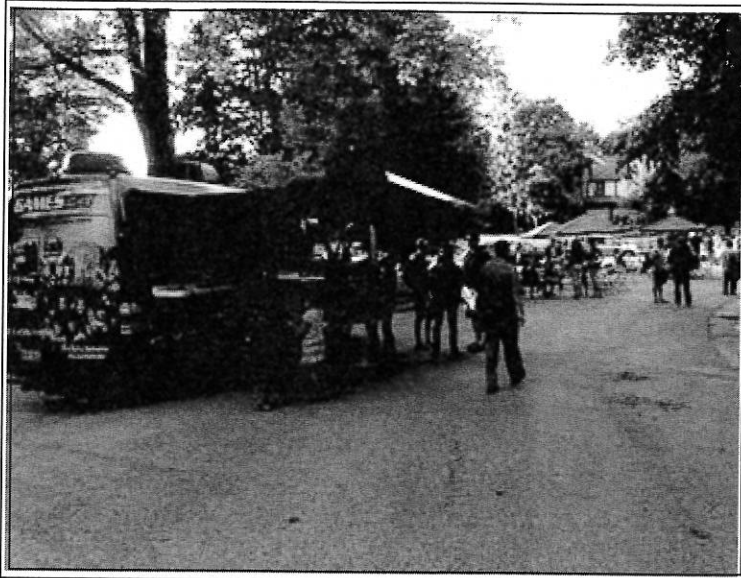
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Block Party



A Party at Ward Parkway Island. It looks like everyone is having a great time.

Burglar Continued

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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 faketv.com.)

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OCTOBERFEST**

October 12

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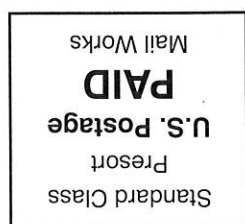
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The Armour Fields Homes Association is a non-profit organization, with board members who donate their time and work for the benefit of the neighborhood.

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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