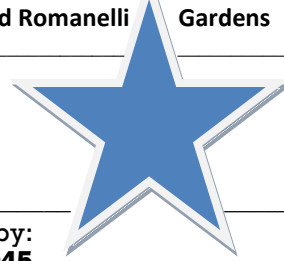




The Armour Star

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

February 2012

Christmas Lighting Contest Winners Announced!

Shelley Cetin Co-Chair, Special Events

The annual Holiday Lighting Contest was again a success in the Armour Fields Homes Association. Hundreds of residents decorated their homes for the 2011 season, extending the spirit and beauty of the Plaza Lights to the AFHA.

On December 9th, members of the Armour Fields Board of Directors viewed the displays. It was not an easy job, but after several passes, we selected the 2011 winners. They are:

Best Theme:

Jennifer Breedlove,
 423 W. 66th Terrace

Most Outstanding:

Michael & Mary Ann Toohey
 430 W. 67th Terrace

Most Original:

David & Luci Powell
 6928 Edgevale

Most Elaborate:

Joe Neenan
 808 W. 69th Street

Best Block:

800 Block of Romany

This year's winners received \$25 gift certificates from the Brookside shops. The winners for Best Block received a \$75 certificate toward a block party. The judging process reminded the Board of how unique the AFHA is: we competed with hundreds of cars - and several limos - to see the display. It's rewarding to know the AFHA is such a tourist attraction.

While we welcome those who

come to see the light displays, seasonal traffic caused several difficulties. Cars occasionally blocked driveways and even some street entrances on Ward Parkway. For these reasons, the Board may ask KCMO to approve temporary traffic-control measures for the 2012 holiday season to make sure our roadways are passable both to residents and emergency vehicles. ◇

CONGRATULATIONS WINNERS!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN By Brian Hand



As I write this on a cool but not cold day, I have to remind myself that this is actually winter time. After last winter I am glad that this one is so mild, especially because if it keeps up, we won't have the big snow removal

expenditures that we have had for the past few years.

Beyond the weather there is a very serious topic that has been weighing on my mind, and that topic is the purpose of our association. When J.C. Nichols developed our neighborhood and surrounding neighborhoods, his goal was to "develop whole residential neighborhoods that would attract an element of people who desired a better way of life, a nicer place to live and would be willing to work in order to keep it better."

While there is some bitter history in there, the overriding message to me is that people "would be willing to work in order to keep it better." Our homes association serves that purpose and I am sure it will continue to do so for years to come. The members of the board come from many different backgrounds and have many different political views, but the common thread is a love of our neighborhood and a willingness to work together to maintain it.

As an elected board we have a responsibility to represent the members of this homes association, and that responsibility extends to issues that affect not just our neighborhood but others around us. The board works with other associations and our elected leaders from the city, county and state in order to protect the interests of our members. Our homes association takes on tremendous responsibilities in areas where city resources are lacking, from plowing the streets, to providing

maintenance of our shared spaces, to security and many other tasks. In many ways we are much like a city within a city. For those items that we cannot handle on our own, we work with the city and engage in the civic process on behalf of our members. The bottom line is that our association's Board of Directors isn't merely a "caretaker" of the islands, but an aggressive advocate on behalf of our association members.

In my last column I discussed the redistricting process and wanted to update you on some of the specifics. First, Map 1, which the AFHA board unanimously opposed, was passed by the council. This map was a product of a "citizens' committee" made up of political insiders and selected by the Councilmembers.

Continued on page 6.

Your neighbor selling our neighborhood.



Call for a free comparative market opinion.

Barbara Roche, GRI, CRS, ABR
Senior Marketing Representative

Business: 913-266-5543
Home: 816-444-4856
Cellular: 816-223-5288
Fax: 913-345-0014
E-mail: barbararoche@reeceandnichols.com

REECE & NICHOLS

ReeceAndNichols.com

THE HEAVY COST OF SNOW REMOVAL

Although we have had a very mild winter in the 2011-2012 season, it is worth mentioning that last year was a very rough year for snow removal. That service cost the AFHA nearly \$10,000 to maintain the city streets that are not maintained by the city, about \$13 per home in our association. ◇ Brian Hand, President

AFHA DIRECTORY CALL FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

In 2012, the AFHA will once again publish a new directory for residents. The directory contains residents' addresses and contact information and is published every other year. The AFHA directory gives you a way to contact your neighbors if you have a question or concern. It is also sent to all new homeowners in a welcome letter packet.

The AFHA Directory is paid for by advertisements, many of whom are AFHA residents, local business owners, or both. Would you like your ad to appear in the 2012 Directory? Contact Joe Giammanco for information.

**SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY.
ADVERTISE IN THE AFHA DIRECTORY.**

THE BOARD THANKS AN ANONYMOUS VOLUNTEER!

The Board of Directors would like to extend thanks to an anonymous volunteer. Hank VanArsdale, Chair, Fountains Committee, recently reported that after the holidays, a number of Christmas trees remained at the curb, uncollected by City services. One day he observed a gentleman hauling his own tree in his pick-up. This kind person stopped to put the left-behind trees into the back of his truck and hauling them off.

The Board wishes to recognize this man's volunteer spirit, generosity and thoughtfulness.

Hats off, Neighbor!



THE ARMOUR FIELDS HOMES ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES THE ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 10, 2010, ROMANELLI ISLAND, 69TH & WORNALL

REECE & NICHOLS

#1 Reece & Nichols Agent 2011

Thank You!

George Medina

816 838-5178 mobile
913-652-4385 office

GeorgeMedinaKC.com
GeorgeMedina@ReeceAndNichols.com



Real Estate
Mortgage
Title
Insurance

AFHA GARAGE SALE

June 2nd, 3rd, and 4th

Take advantage of the traffic. Enlist the family in those spring-cleaning efforts and start tagging your cast-offs for extra cash!

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

by Kelley Slagle Funk, Contributor

What a beautiful winter we have been having! It has been great to see so many of us getting out in the mornings and evenings to enjoy the mild weather. The neighbors of the 6600 block of Valley had a cheerful reminder posted to remind all dog walkers to please pick up their doggie deposits! Always a great reminder to keep our neighborhood looking lovely.

Camilla and John Keech of the 6900 block of Valley have had a very exciting year. As well as passing the Missouri Bar, their son Logan was married in October. He's also now gainfully employed at a firm in Lee's Summit, MO. Their son Corbin received his Masters of Science in Architectural Design last spring from Columbia University.

In addition, he won a fellowship which awarded him a trip to Bosnia in June of 2011!

Keith McGovern of the 400 block of 67th Street was promoted to Manager at BKD LLP. The family also welcomed a gorgeous son, Owen. Big brother Jack is so proud!

It is very exciting that the beautiful church at the corner of 66th Terrace and Wornall has been purchased by another congregation. I have spoken with the future pastor and he and his wife are thrilled to be joining such a fantastic neighborhood.

As you can see this column is quite short this quarter. If all

the block captains could take a moment after reading this to send me an e-mail about their neighborhood news, it would be greatly appreciated! My e-mail address is kellsagle@aol.com. Thank you to everyone who continues to contribute. Have a wonderful spring. ♦

SIDEWALKS OR STREETS?

The Board has heard concerns about walkers, runners, and parents with strollers using the streets instead of sidewalks. Unfortunately, drivers unfamiliar with the area may not respect posted speed limits, which poses a danger to anyone in the street. Please exercise care. ♦

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- Summer Annual Bed Prep and Installation

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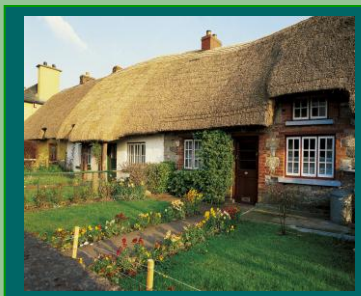
BLOCK CAPTAINS IN THE AFHA

Following is a list of Block Captains in the Armour Fields Homes Association:

Block	Captain	Address	Phone #	Email
65th St 800-1000	Jim Betterman	1005 W. 65th St	361-8880	jbetterman@kc.rr.com
66th St 800-1000	Debra Parmet	1020 W. 66th St.	333-2503	aparmet@kc.rr.com
66th Terr 400	Lisa Kiene	427 W. 66th Terr	885-5911	lkiene2@yahoo.com
66th Terr 600	Moira Healy	612 W. 66th Terr	361-1870	moirahealy@hotmail.com
66th Terr 1000	Brian Finigan	1008 W. 66th Terr	210-0101	b.g.finigan@gmail.com
67th St. 400	Robin Maiale	426 W 67th St	444-0379	rmaiale@gmail.com
67th St. 600	Julie Herbig	628 W. 67th St.	(661)713-9732	julieherbig@yahoo.com
67th St. 800-1000	Sue Loudon	1008 W. 67th St.	822-9072	uecloudon@everestkc.net
67th Terr. 400	Kathy Achelpohl	431 W. 67th Terr	333-0588	kachelpohl@bnim.com
67th Terr. 400	Betty Bauers	434 W. 67th Terr	444-4353	bebauers@hotmail.com
67th Terr. 600	Jay Reed	631 W. 67th Terr	437-9608	jbr-486@kc.rr.com
67th Terr 800 - 1000	Therese Smith	1014 W 67th Terr		therese1014@kc.rr.com
68th St. 400 & 6800 Penn	Susan Dillard	422 West 68th	444-5405	sdillard@everestkc.net
68th Terr. 400	Tim & Heather Freund	426 W. 68th Terr.	363-0992	heather_freund@americancentury.com
68th Terr. 600	Kathy Diamond	611 W. 68th Terr	363-5947	Kathy.diamond@kc.surewest.net dan_devine@att.net
68th Terr. 800-1000	Dan Devine	803 W. 68th Terr	363-6425	
	Nancy McClure	1015 W. 68th Terr.	444-5097	
	Nancy Stern	820 W 68th Terr	333-6265	
69th St. 400	Shannon O'Boyle	428 W. 69th St.	361-6705	soboyle@kc.rr.com
69th St. 600	VACANT			
69th St. 800-1000	Justin & Ashley Dean	1015 W 69th St.	444-9243	justindean@kc.rr.com
69th Terr. 600	Molly Williams	641 W. 69th Terr.	333-3931	mollykwilliams@gmail.com
69th Terr. 800	Maria Ellis	801 W. 69th Terr.	363-0801	mariapittaellis@gmail.com
69th Terr. 1000	Dawn Christensen	1005 W. 69th Terr.	363-0834	pony@att.net
70th St. 400	Paul Bennett	406 W. 70th St.	898-6969	PaulMBennett@gmail.com
70th St. 600	Mike Jantsch	655 W. 70th St.	363-6848	mjantsch@jaikc.com
70th St. 800-1000	Diana Halverson	1023 W. 70th St.	361-0932	onmylastnerve@everstkc.net
70th Terr. 400	Alice Ergovich	West 70th Terr		aergovich@specialtyglobal.net
	Stacey McCrea	West 70th Terr		smcrearobertson@everestkc.net
70th Terr. 600	Peggy LaPierre	669 West 70th Terr	333-4481	peggyfernslapierre@gmail.com
Bebe Harrington	634 West 70th Terr		444-5639	
70th Terr. 1000	Ellen Pantaenius	1000 W. 70th Terr	268-8892	ellen.pantaenius@huschblackwell.com
Arno 800-1000	Andrea Bough	1025 Arno		andrea.bough@gmail.com
Dartmouth 400	Ashely Fitzgibbons Harbison	408 W Dartmouth		Ashley.fitzbbbons@gmail.com
Dartmouth 600	Bryan & Melissa Heinkle	641 W Dartmouth	361-0402	melandbryan@gmail.com
Edgevale 6900	Ron McMickle	6919 Edgevale Rd.	822-8319	ronmcmickle@yahoo.com

Continued on page 10.

Happy  St. Patricks Day



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Continued from page 2.

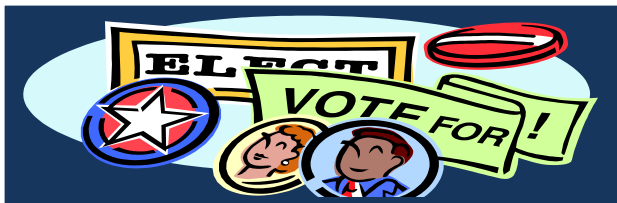
The 4th district committee member selected by Councilwoman Jan Marcason was Steve Glorioso, a partisan political consultant. As an association, we were only brought into the process to tell us what the decision was and that for Brookside it was “our turn” to get split up. Our association worked with diverse groups from this district, other districts, and Councilman John Sharp (the only Councilperson to ask for our input) to put together a map that would allow the Brookside area to stay intact along with other changes and meet all the legal requirements according to the city attorney. Despite our requests for Councilwoman Marcason to vote no on splitting Brookside, she made unfounded inflammatory accusations about our motives and voted us out of her district.

As 2012 gets underway we will continue to advocate for the members of our association and will do so in accordance with the highest standards of integrity and openness. ◇

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS!

AFHA residents should be aware that 3 positions on the Armour Fields Homes Association Board of Directors will fall vacant this year. The positions, all 3-year terms, will be filled during an election at the Annual Meeting in June. The Board invites AFHA residents to nominate themselves – or other candidates - to these positions.

Board Directors attend regular board meetings and fulfill the duties of their positions in their free time. If you would like to run for one of the open positions, contact the President, Brian Hand.



BLOCK CAPTAIN NEWS

Block Captains Wanted!

We have two vacancies in Armour Fields. Recently your block captain co-chairs Rodd & Peggy sent notes to the vacant blocks; unfortunately, we do not yet have any new volunteers. A block captain's primary duty is to compile an email and/or phone listing for your block. Block captains send out information for specific reasons including: security updates and crime alerts, reminders about the annual meeting and board elections, planning an annual block party or seasonal gathering, and coordinating ideas for the annual holiday lighting contest. Several blocks have co-block captains who can split the duties.

We currently have vacancies for:

600 Block W 69th St.
6900 Block Pennsylvania

You may contact Rodd or Peggy for additional information. All board members' contact information is always listed on the back page of the Armour Star. ◇

On Facebook?

Search “Armour Fields Homes Association” and “Like” our page!



**BRING YOUR LITTLE BUNNIES
TO THE AFHA EASTER EGG
HUNT ON MARCH 31st.**

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR 2012: Spring and Summer

By Shelley Cetin, Co-Chair, Special Events

After a long winter, residents are ready for yard work – and fun – and the AFHA is there to help! On March 31, we will hold the first of several special events for 2012. Join us for the annual **Easter Egg Hunt** at 2:00 on the Banana Island on 70th Street between Valley and Dartmouth. The chance to see the Easter Bunny and hunt for eggs will create lots of Kodak moments, so bring your cameras!

The second event for 2012 is the **Lawn and Leaf Clean-Up**, scheduled for 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. on the island at 69th Street and Pennsylvania on April 28. The clean-up is a great opportunity for residents to remove leaves, twigs, branches, and gum balls from their property. Please come prepared to show your I.D. to verify your AFHA residence.

Thanks to the KCMO Neighborhood Clean-up Assistance Program, which subsidizes the cost, we pay only \$55 per dumpster, not the regular \$300 charge. Guidelines are similar to those for curbside pick-up:

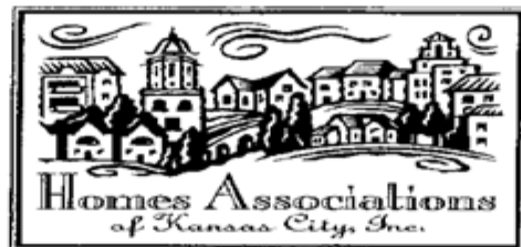
- * paper or plastic bags permitted. If you use plastic bags, you must empty their contents and remove the bags.
- * leaves, brush, and other yard waste are accepted. No grass clippings or logs.
- * ONLY yard waste accepted. No junk.

On May 2, 3 and, 4 the AFHA will hold its **Annual Garage Sale**. If you're doing spring cleaning and wonder what to do with all the stuff accumulated over year, remember that many of

those items could be another person's treasure. Why not tag them and make a little – (or a lot of) money?

Don't forget to mark May 10th on your calendar, the date of this year's **Annual Meeting** at Romanelli Park at 69th and Wornall. Besides learning about important Association business, during this year's meeting, residents will elect 3 board members to fill open positions. The positions are all for three-year terms. Board positions are voluntary: board members are never paid for their work. If you have thought about running for a board position, contact the current President, Brian Hand, for information.

A final word about special events: if you enjoy socializing, please consider volunteering to help the social events co-chairs. Our largest events involve hundreds of people, and we can use extra hands. Call Shelley Cetin if you are interested. ◇



WHAT'S AHEAD IN 2012?

Ready for more neighborhood fun? Here's what's coming up in the AFHA:

Easter Egg Hunt	–	March 31
Leaf & Brush Clean-Up	–	April 28
AFHA Garage Sale	–	June 2, 3, & 4
Annual Meeting	–	June 10



nominated for: "SMALL Business of the Year" 3 years in a row

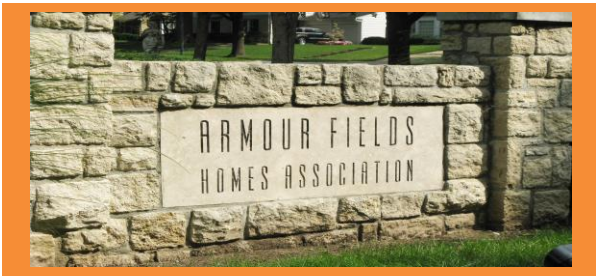
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(Licensed Architect)



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E-mail: arkitec35@aol.com

**THE ARMOUR STAR WELCOMES YOU
TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD**



**HELP US NOT SPEND YOUR
DUES!**

The Board of Directors regularly hears from residents concerned about how dues are spent, but few people realize how expensive our upkeep is. AFHA dues pay to maintain and repair islands, fountains, and street entry walls (such as the one in the photo above) among other things. The fees of the people who do the work are quite costly, but volunteers can do lots of that work. Have a few extra hours? Call a committee chair to get involved! ◇

**THE ARMOUR STAR IS GOING 21st
CENTURY**

Recently, the Armour Fields Homes Association Board of Directors unanimously approved a new form of email distribution for the Association's newsletter, the Armour Star.

We only recently began electronic distribution due to the prevalence and efficiency of email. As the United States Post Office closes more offices and reduces the size of its work force, the delivery of the hard copy of the Star is becoming slower and slower.

In May, the Armour Star will come to your inbox via an email distribution service which closely guards user privacy and does not sell or give email addresses to third parties this service. (Your security is of primary importance to the Board.) If your block captain has your email address, delivery will be automatic. If you aren't currently receiving the electronic but would like to be on the mailing list, please send your email address to the editor, Shelley Cetin. Don't use email? Not to worry. Residents will still receive the hard copy of the newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading the color copies of the Star! ◇

An advertisement for Ann Hyde, a real estate agent. On the left is a portrait of Ann Hyde, a woman with short dark hair, smiling, wearing a dark top. To the right of the portrait, the text reads: "ANN HYDE" in large white letters, followed by "ABR, CDPE, CIPS, CRP, CRS" in smaller white letters. Below that is "Keller Williams Key Partners LLC" in white, "Serving over 1000 Families since 1983" in white, "Lifetime Achievement Award" in white, "www.AnnHyde.com" in white, "ann@annhyde.com" in white, and "Mobile 913 980 5555 Fax 913 825 1110" in white. At the bottom right is the Keller Williams Realty logo, which features a stylized 'K' and 'W' above the words "KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY" in red and white.

AFHA BOARD REQUESTS RESIDENTS' VIGILANCE

The need to be watchful never subsides, and criminal activity can increase in warm weather. Recent property crimes in and around the the Armour Fields Homes Association include a number of break-ins.

Recent break-ins have occurred in the early morning hours, when residents were at home. However, in the past, criminals have entered homes in mid-day, in full daylight.

The Board cautions you to remain vigilant day and night. If you witness suspicious activity, vandalism, or damage to AFHA property, don't wait. Call the KCMO police department and Chesley Brown. Then notify the Board. Your information could help stop or catch criminals and keep you and the entire community safe. ◇



TULIPS! TULIPS! TULIPS!

If you're like the rest of us, you are enjoying the colorful appearance of crocuses and daffodils in AFHA entrances and on our islands.

Jane Aylward works very hard to plan and maintain the green spaces of the association. This year, keep your eyes open for her new new floral contribution: tulips!

Last fall, Jane supervised the planting of 1500 tulip bulbs to beautify the AFHA. As you enjoy their spectacular show, remember to thank Jane for her continued dedication and work as a volunteer board member. ◇

HAPPY ST. PADDY'S DAY

Even if your family name isn't Kennedy, Murphy, or McLoughlin, you've probably enjoyed the annual St. Patrick's Day parade. How can you not enjoy a celebration where people have green faces, toss green beads at the crowd, and dress their dogs in green outfits. (No. There's no such thing as a green beagle.)

And the names? Rooted in ancient history. Kennedy means helmet-headed. Murphy means sea battler. And McLoughlin? The fiercest of them all: Viking.

Erin Go Bragh!
(That's "Ireland Forever" in English.)



THE MANY BENEFITS OF PAYING SECURITY DUES

If you pay the extra portion of your homes association dues, you can request extra services from our security provider, Chesley Brown. Here are some of the extras you can request:

- With the arrival of spring, many residents are spending more time outdoors – and more time traveling on weekends. Before a trip, you can ask Chesley Brown to safety check your residence. They will actually check your windows and doors while you're away!
- False alarm at your home? List Chesley Brown as the first responder to your system and you can avoid the costly fees charged by the city.
- Chesley Brown has even helped find lost pets! How thankful those families must be that their security service was patrolling the neighborhood.

Sound like a good deal? Chesley Brown only offers these extra services to residents whose names are on the service's list of residents who have paid the security portion of their dues. Through these services and regular patrols, they keep us safe. Call Chesley Brown at (816) 753-2945. Don't be caught without them! ◇

BLOCK CAPTAIN UPDATES

Continued from page 5.

Block	Captain	Address	Phone #	Email
Edgevale 7000	Kelly Nulan	7001 Edgevale Rd.	298-6253	knulan@kc.rr.com
Gregory 400-600	Mary Silva	432 W. Gregory Rd.	333-0397	sophieandsam@hotmail.com
Gregory 700-1000	Karen Hartley	800 W. Gregory Rd.	523-3616	karen@hartleydesign.com
Jefferson 6500	Sylvia Smith	6511 Jefferson	444-7153	sylmedina@everestkc.net
Romany 600	Toby Turner	620 Romany	550-1036	tturner7696@gmail.com
Romany 800-1000	Pat Pierson	1019 Romany		patricialpierson@gmail.com
Pennsylvania 6500	Gail Clair	6522 Pennsylvania	444-8425	gclair@kc.rr.com
Pennsylvania 6700	Judy Hutchison	6758 Pennsylvania	363-4868	rpetchutch@aol.com
Pennsylvania 6800	Susan Dillard	w/ 400 Block W 68th Ter		
Pennsylvania 6900				
Summit 6500	George Medina	6544 Summit	838-5178	georgemedina@reeceandnichols.com
	Molly Wier	6540 Summit	268-3696	jwier@kc.rr.com
Valley 6500	Jane Fee	6519 Valley Road	444-5492	ggharleyb@hotmail.com
Wornall 6600- 7000	Jody Wilkins	6910 Wornall	363-4440	jodywilkins@att.net



SPRING

HAS

SPRUNG!



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

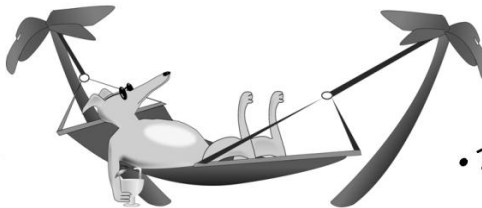
Pooches' Paradise

•Day care

•Grooming

•Boarding

•Training



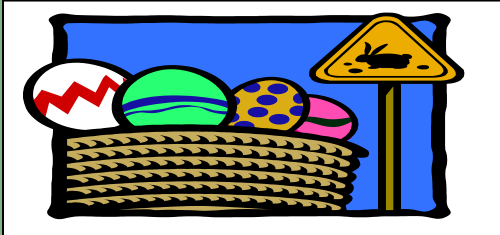
218 West 74th Street Kansas City, MO
 (Near The Well - 1/2 block east of 74th and
 Wornall)
 816-361-3388
www.PoochesParadise.com

Convenient Pick up and Drop off:
 Mon - Fri 7am -6pm
 Sat 4-5pm
 Sun 4-6pm

Joe Giammanco, Armour Fields Resident

**AFHA EASTER EGG
HUNT MARCH 31**

Moms and Dads, the Easter Bunny will be visiting the AFHA Saturday, March 31st, on the Banana Island at 2:00. Be sure to take your little ones to hunt for eggs and see the Easter Bunny in person!



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Helping Your Family.
Thanks for Your Continued Trust!**



Sylvia Medina Smith
Sales Associate
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George Medina
Sales Executive
816 838-5178



Elizabeth Medina
Sales Associate
816 838-5179



GeorgeMedinaKC.com
GeorgeMedina@ReeceAndNichols.com



Licensed in Missouri & Kansas
Direct 913 652-4385



**The AFHA welcomes our
new neighbors!**

Aaron Berger & Erin Malashock, 667 W. 70th St.

Jim Duff, 444 W. Gregory

David Harris & Alison Spinden, 436 W.
Dartmouth

Jenna Jantsch & Mike Oehlerking, 657 W. 70th
Terrace

Brian & Liz Kelly, 432 W. Dartmouth

Toby Turner, 403 W. 68th Street

Jason & Elizabeth Wade, 643 W. 66th Terrace

If you haven't yet done so, please take a moment to introduce yourself and make our new residents feel at home.

Also, the Armour Fields Board of Directors would again like to welcome all the new additions to our neighborhood in 2011. S.C. ◇

Looking for a Service Provider?
Check out the ads in the Armour Star. You just might find the perfect fit!

**WANT TO SERVE THE
ASSOCIATION?**

**Run for the Board of
Directors at the Annual
Meeting on June 10.**

**Contact Brian Hand for
information.**

SAFE AND SECURE

by Brian Hand, Chair, Safety & Security

As we enter our fourth year of service with Chesley Brown as our security provider I thought this would be a good opportunity to revisit the services they provide. Chesley Brown International began servicing our community on January 1st 2008 and has been very responsive to the needs of our residents. Many residents use the service to have vacation checks when they are out of town, get a jumpstart on a cold day, respond to alarm calls at their homes, check out suspicious activity and much more. These are all services that are in addition to the patrols that take place each day.

One of the great benefits of Chesley Brown's service is alarm response. Simply notify your home security alarm company, and they will walk you through adding Chesley Brown as your patrol company. The contact numbers to use are 816-753-2945 or 816-753-2946. When your alarm system sends a signal to the monitoring company, they will in turn contact Chesley Brown, who will respond in minutes to your home. Security will typically have a better response time than the police department. This is because they are well staffed in our area and can reallocate resources quickly.

As our security dues are not mandatory, it is important to remember that non-payment precludes the use of any security services beyond patrols and emergencies. This means that by not paying you

agree not to use any "extras" such as alarm response, escorts, extra checks, etc. In fairness to members who do pay, any use of these services by non-security dues paying members will serve as notice of intent to pay dues for the past quarter.

I will also point out that Chesley Brown cannot help you if you do not call them. While they do analyze crime trends in our neighborhood, it is outside the scope of their duties to search through all of the police reports to find specific reports relating to our residents. Upon request, they will, however, assist members who pay the security assessment. If you have any questions regarding the security service, you may contact Brian Hand or Chesley Brown International directly. ◇

**STAY VIGILANT.
STAY SAFE.**

**Report suspicious
activity to Chesley
Brown and the KCMO
Police Department.**



WHO YA GONNA CALL? CHESLEY BROWN!

The AFHA uses the optional security fee many of you pay with your dues to pay for a private security service to keep us safe. If you've seen their white SUVs patrolling your street, you know that Chesley Brown International is doing a great job providing round-the-clock, random patrols of the AFHA. Their officers have assisted Kansas City, Missouri police officers apprehend crime suspects and are extra vigilant around Southwest.

Don't forget: if you pay the optional security dues, you can even ask Chesley Brown to check your home while you're out of town. So if you notice a security issue in the AFHA, call:

**Chesley Brown
816-753-2945**

ADVERTISING



The Armour Star reaches 788 homes in our neighborhood and accepts advertisements at competitive rates.

Residents of the Armour Fields Homes Association receive a 20% discount. Send your PC compatible ad to the editor. 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 toto_fan19@yahoo.com. ◇

PUNXSUTAWNEY PHIL: HOW DOES THAT GROUNDHOG DO IT?

On February 2nd, 2012, the famous furry prognosticator from Pennsylvania, Punxsutawney Phil, once again made his prediction, this year for six more weeks of winter.

Whether you lend credence to Phil's abilities or not, this tradition has interesting roots. It may descend from beliefs of Roman soldiers marking the mid-point of winter. This winter day coincided with Candlemas for early Germans, who picked up the tradition. They reasoned that an animal emerging into sunshine on that day would see its shadow and further concluded that the shadow indicated six more weeks of winter, the length of "second winter."

Those same Germans often looked to the hedgehog as the

animal which could see its shadow. When they came to the U.S., they transferred the tradition to the North American groundhog, which shared similarities in appearance.

Today, Punxsutawney Phil has his own club and website. To join and receive his newsletter, the "Groundhogese," go to <http://www.groundhog.org/phils-club/join-the-club/>. Have fun! ♦



AFHA STATUARY: IT'S WORTH IT

The AFHA uses your dues to maintain the urns and statuary of the association, historic reminders of J.C Nichols careful planning. Nowhere else in the KCMO area is outdoor artwork so intrinsic to the history of a community. Every year, accidents and vandalism take their toll; repairs are a must.

Residents can donate to help offset the cost of such repairs. Would you like to help? Contact Joe Giammanco, Treasurer. ♦



FIRST RESPONSE CONSTRUCTION LLC

Specializing in vintage home remodeling and repair and concentrating services in the historical neighborhoods of Armour Fields, Armour Hills, and Greenway Fields.

- ❖ Drywall and Plaster Repair
- ❖ Tiling
- ❖ Bathroom and Kitchen Remodels
- ❖ Painting
- ❖ Fire Restoration & Flood Damage Repair 24/7

Here's our recent Brookside home remodeling project.



THANK YOU, RESPONSIBLE DOG WALKERS!

The weather is warming up again and more and more of us are taking our pet companions out for regular strolls. Ours is a neighborhood that welcomes the sight of canines on their daily outings. The Board would like to acknowledge all those dog owners who clean up after their fur kids. Thank you! ♦





Why is Wornall Road called Wornall Road?

By Shelley Cetin, Editor

I admit it: I've driven past the Wornall House Museum thousands of times and never stopped. But I can't say that I never wondered who the "Wornall" was in Wornall Road. So I did a little digging.

John Bristow Wornall was born in Kentucky in 1822, moving with his family to Westport, Missouri in 1843. His father, Richard Wornall, purchased nearly 500 acres of very profitable farmland, which he soon sold to his two sons. When John's

brother, Thomas, died, John Wornall became sole owner.

John Wornall's first wife died childless a year after their marriage. In 1854, he married Eliza Shalcross Johnson, daughter to Rev. Thomas Johnson, founder of the Shawnee Methodist Indian Mission. Only two of John and Eliza's seven children lived past infancy. Eliza died shortly after her last child was born in 1865. John married his third wife, Eliza's first cousin Roma, in 1866. Again, only two children survived past infancy.

Wornall's farm made him a wealthy and well-known man. In 1860, he paid property taxes on \$18,500 – a fortune at the time. His home, described as the most pretentious home in the community, apparently reflected his great wealth. Mr. Wornall was active in a number of organizations and served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Wm. Jewell College.

A hired hand said of John Wornall:

"He was a good man, a true gentleman and regarded by everybody in that section as one of its best and leading citizens, and a boy from home in my condition could not have fallen in with a better man...than I found while living in his home..."

Some skeletons in the Wornall closet are in keeping with his time: he was a slave owner and a member of Westport Minute Men, a group of southern sympathizers.

And speaking of skeletons... perhaps as a result of the popularity of reality television, the John Wornall House has been "investigated" for paranormal activity. There are stories of limbs being tossed from 2nd story windows during the battle at nearby Loose Park, and staff and visitors report "sightings" of a woman in a blue dress playing a piano and of a Civil War soldier. I found no mention of Wornall visiting his old "haunt" since his death in 1892. More on this topic in the fall issue. ◇

CAN WE BE GREENER? KCMO WATER SERVICES NEEDS OUR HELP

If you or your neighbor lives on one of the streets plagued by broken water mains, you'll want give your City Liaison, John Murphy, a pat on the back. John has worked tirelessly to get those water lines repaired.

While residents may find the age of our neighborhood one of its charms, age brings infrastructure problems. Our water system lines are eroding and city resources are overwhelmed. The KCMO Water Services Department is asking for our help. Storm drains siphon water from our streets to natural

bodies of water. The water in these drains is not treated and can pollute lakes, rivers, and streams. This is called *non-point source pollution*. Here's what you can do to protect our system and our water:

- 1) Follow instructions when using lawn chemicals. Never apply chemicals before rain or before watering *unless instructions specify*.
- 2) Always recycle motor oil. Never put it in the trash or pour it down a street gutter.
- 3) Clean up after your pets. Pet waste left on sidewalks or in streets is washed into drains by rain and ends up in natural waterways.
- 4) Never put leaves or yard waste in the street or down storm drains. If you have a lawn service, make

sure they bag the yard waste they clear from your property. This has been a particular problem in our homes association.

Also contributing to storm drain problems in the AFHA are sweetgum balls. They dangerous to walkers and can combine with leaves, twigs, and branches to clog storm drains.

Here's an extra incentive to keep storm drains clean: most urban drinking water comes from water sources dirtied by non-point source pollutants like these.

Following any or all of these recommendations will lessen the strain on storm drains and thus the chance of breaks or clogs near our homes. If you want to learn more about protecting our drinking water and critical water infrastructure, visit www.EPA.gov. ◇

Armour Fields Homes Association

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

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The Armour Star
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