



# The Official Newsletter of The City of Audubon Park



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Issue 49

March 2010

## MAYOR SCALISE'S MESSAGE

### TAXES AND BUDGET SANITY

As a yearly reminder, tax bills were mailed out the last week of February this year. You should have received the bill by now or your mortgage company may have requested it (if you have an escrow account). If you haven't received your bill, please call City Hall in order to obtain another copy or to check on the status of the bill. You may mail your payment to City Hall; or if you desire, you may pay in person Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. The tax rate is relatively unchanged from last year. This year, the rate is 25.8 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation as compared to 25.7 cents last year.

Excessive government spending is on everyone's minds lately from the Federal Government's trillion dollar deficit, to Kentucky's deficit, and to Metro Louisville's deficit; however, the City Council and I believe it is wrong to spend what we don't have. Many worthy projects are presented to the City for funding (and people don't like to be told no), but my over-riding philosophy is budgetary sanity above all else. As an aside, I recently read that the average property tax rate in New Jersey is \$1.74 per \$100 of assessed valuation. That means your property taxes in New Jersey would be seven times the amount you pay to Audubon Park! No wonder voters are so concerned.

### FROM THE FOREST BOARD

*Leah Netherland*

Did you know that improper pruning is the second leading cause of tree death following construction

damage? The leaves are the food factory for the tree, and the removal of too many will actually starve a tree. This will stress a tree forcing it to send out multiple weak sprouts. A stressed tree is more vulnerable to insect and disease infestations, drought, and other risks.

There are several pruning practices that are particularly bad. One is topping, which removes the ends of all major branches leaving ugly stubs. Another bad practice is lion tailing, which removes all of the inner branches because of a misconception that the tree will then offer less resistance to high winds. Another misguided practice is to limb up or to remove most of the lower lateral branches, which leaves only the vertical crown branches with not enough percentage of leaves to sustain the tree.

Beware of tree trimmers that may not be knowledgeable about all of the factors that determine the best way to manage tree health. Pruning to "tidy up a tree" may actually result in costly removal fees in the future when your tree goes into decline prematurely. It is recommended that a Certified Arborist be consulted before any major pruning tasks are undertaken.

### AUDUBON PARK GARDEN CLUB NEWS

*Joanne Bader*

#### Christmas Community Celebration Results

The Audubon Park Garden Club was pleased with the community's response to its annual Christmas Community Celebration. The Park sparkled with the many homes and yards that were decorated for the holiday season! Many residents also turned out at City Hall to vote for their favorites, visit with friends

*"Provided as a service to our neighbors"*

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and neighbors, and to sample the Christmas treats provided by Garden Club members. The Garden Club would like to thank all the residents who participated in this annual event which delights both Park residents and the many visitors from throughout Louisville who drive through Audubon Park to view the decorations. This year's winners were:

**Favorite Decorated Home:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Denise & Chris Killmeier - 3319 Thrush Rd
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Claudia & Steve Weber - 936 Audubon
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Anita & Neal Garrison - 3200 Cross Bill Rd

**Favorite Decorated Doorway:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Ann & David Martin - 3121 Chickadee Rd
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Theresa & Jeff Byrne - 1125 Dove Road
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Suzanne & Dan Eberenz - 1147 Dove Road

**Favorite Nativity Scene:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Leslie & Joe Mittel - 1113 Cardinal Drive
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Jeanne Lechleiter - 1216 Valley Drive

**The Festival of the Dogwood**

Fortunately, this winter we seem to be dealing with snow and not last year's devastating ice (knock on wood); so, we hope that Audubon Park's trees (especially its Dogwoods) will be in fine bloom for the upcoming Festival of the Dogwood scheduled for April 23-25, 2010. As in years past, the Garden Club will sponsor the opening ceremony for the Festival on Friday night, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. This event will be held in Wren Park with musical entertainment as well as opening remarks from the Mayor and others followed by refreshments. Seating will not be provided, so please bring a blanket or chairs for your comfort. The Garden Club requests that all homes in the Park light up all blooming shrubs, trees, or other flowers beginning on Thursday evening to highlight the beauty of Audubon Park during this event for the many visitors who drive through the Park. Additional information regarding the Festival of the Dogwood will be distributed by flyer in early April.

**Garden Tour Scheduled for June 26<sup>th</sup>**

This year's annual Garden Tour will be held on Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup>. Once again, Audubon Park will

partner with Garden Tours held in Crescent Hill and Old Louisville through the Passport Program. The Garden Club is looking for gardens to be featured on the tour; so, if you would like to volunteer your garden (or would like to nominate your neighbor's garden), please contact Mary Miller at 635-7322. There will be more information about the Garden Tour highlighted in the next Newsletter.

**Upcoming Garden Club Programs**

The following are upcoming programs from the Garden Club. All programs, unless otherwise noted, are held at Audubon Park City Hall, 3340 Robin Road, at 1 P.M. All Park residents are welcome to attend and bring a friend.

Monday, March 8, 2010: – "*Adventures in Rose Gardening*" with guest speaker Linda Jansing - this program will include a demonstration as well as a visual presentation. Ms. Jansing is a member of the Louisville Rose Society as well as consulting Rosarian for the American Rose Society and an accredited Rose Show Judge.

Monday, May 10, 2010: – "*Adventures in Growing Peonies*" with guest speaker Don Smith - this program will be a visual presentation on growing peonies featuring expert speaker Don Smith, founder of the Midwest Peony Society, and an Advanced Master Gardener and Hybridizer of Peonies.

April's program (due to some scheduling changes) is the Club's annual spring luncheon and will feature only installation of new officers and committee reports. The Garden Club welcomes new members who enjoy a love of gardening and the fellowship of other gardeners. If you would like more information about joining the Garden Club, please contact Marjorie Davis at 636-2132 or Cheryl Westbay at 634-1239.

**The Azalea**

In this month's Newsletter, we are highlighting the Azalea in our ongoing series of common flowers and their backgrounds. The Azalea's botanical name is *Rhododendron* from the *Ericaceae* family and is one

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of the most colorful spring flowers found in Audubon Park. The name comes from "azaleos", which is Greek for "dry", and derives from the fact that these plants do not grow well in dry ground (needing well-watered habitats to accommodate their shallow root systems). As Diana Wells notes in her book "*100 Flowers and How They Got Their Names*", what we call Azaleas first reached Europe in the late 1600s and were the "Rhododendron Viscosum" or "Swamp Azalea". These Azaleas had very small leaves and flowers but were not grown in gardens as they are today. Many often confused the Azalea with the Rhododendron. Azaleas are a common garden fixture in the United States because of their beauty and many colored varieties. Their natural habitat is on wooded slopes where they bloom in the undergrowth of trees; however, they are now most often seen in landscaped gardens and commercial plantings. Who could forget the beauty of the Azaleas on display at the Masters Golf Tournament in Augusta, GA or at such formal gardens as Calloway Gardens located outside of Atlanta?

### FRIENDLY REMINDERS

- There is no parking permitted on the street or on parking pads between 2 A.M. and 6 A.M. There is also no parking permitted on the grass. With the weather changing, please be on the lookout for more walkers and joggers in the neighborhood.
- Building, Tree, and Yard Sale permits are issued through City Hall. If you have a project in mind, a tree you would like to trim or remove on the easement, or if you would just like to have a yard sale, please contact or come by City Hall.
- Please report any street lights that are out or malfunctioning to City Hall at 637-5066. The information provided will then be forwarded on to LG&E for repair.
- With regards to pets, please keep in mind that your neighbors do **NOT** want your pets wandering in their yard or on the roadway in front of their houses leaving unpleasant surprises or attacking the pets they may have. Please make sure they are under control at all times and are not running around loose. We have also

received complaints at City Hall of barking dogs and of cats on the prowl. Please try to keep your pets from disturbing your neighbors or the bird population in the area.

- In keeping with the beauty of the neighborhood, please try to avoid having yard signs placed on your property. Please keep in mind that if a yard sign is placed on the easement, it will be removed by the City.
- In relation to garbage collection, please keep in mind the collection days in the City are Tuesdays and Fridays. The yard waste and recycling are on Tuesdays only and are to be placed at the curb. **Please keep in mind yard waste must be bundled and not to exceed 48 inches in length.** Household garbage is collected at the rear of the house. Yard waste and recycling should **NOT** be placed at the street earlier than the evening before collection.

Please see the following holiday collection schedule:

For Memorial Day (May 31, 2010), all collections will be moved one day later for this week. For July 4<sup>th</sup>, there will be no change in service for the week.

If your garbage is missed, please contact Bernice with Waste Management at 962-5042.

### IN MEMORIAM

Audubon Park lost one of its finest recently. Police Officer David Sean Button, age 39, died February 17, 2010, at his home in Crestwood. He was a faithful member of the Crestwood Second Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. After high school, he served as a missionary for his church in Idaho. In addition to being on the Audubon Park Police Department, he was a former member of the Blackfoot Idaho Police Dept., Oldham County Sheriff's Dept., Jefferson County School Board Police Dept., and the Eminence City Police Dept. David will be sadly missed.