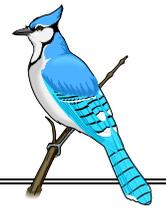




The Official Newsletter of The City of Audubon Park



Dorn Crawford, Mayor
Janette Mercer, City Clerk
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 Audubon Park Residents



City Council:

Mike Gardner
Drew Perkins
Darrell Shelton

Laura Stevens
Tony Williams
Nancy Zinner

Issue 76

December 2016

MAYOR'S MUSINGS

Dorn Crawford

It's hard to believe this year has gone by so quickly. Yet here we are, with a brief chance to reflect before the rear-view mirror fades out of focus. The main device that's served this purpose for me the last few years is the management commentary in the City's annual audit report. But that has a pretty narrow audience, so much of what follows is drawn from that report, which was just delivered to the Council at its December meeting.

This year has represented a time of growing stability and civic and fiscal health, driven by intensive efforts to solve immediate problems and demands, and meet deferred maintenance and capital needs with the resources available. Best practices to support and sustain these efforts have been devised on the fly, though, leaving documentation and continuity plans as the key remaining challenges to codify the work done, and stretch a sound present footing into a secure future for the City.

City leadership has remained stable through this period, from a lucky combination of circumstances. Because of our two-year election cycle, no elected offices changed hands during this period, save one by relocation. A couple of prospects of talented senior employees being hired away didn't materialize. The City's improved stature, and local contacts, especially in law enforcement, have helped readily replace people who do depart. Enhanced morale, dedication and commitment are encouraging people to stay. And we've been very lucky in borrowing the valuable time and effort of many elected and appointed officials from other demanding jobs that put food on the table.

As the year turns, a new Council will take office, bringing fresh energy and enthusiasm to the challenges still ahead. Despite an initial shortfall in registration, more than enough write-in candidates stepped up to offer the wide range of talents and interests essential to represent the City's interests. I'm very much looking forward to working with this group.

Those who've had recent business with City Hall know the thin but potent glue that holds it all together: City Clerk/Treasurer Janette Mercer, who keeps the records, pays the bills, and dispenses all manner of advice and assistance; Chief Doug Sweeney, who with his intrepid crew keeps us safe and orderly, enforcing the City Code and all manner of local, state and Federal law; and Public Works operator Jason Payne, who mows, plows, repairs and maintains our precious City resources.

After trying several different avenues, the City's bookkeeping function is now ably fulfilled by Susan Gordinier on a dedicated part-time appointment that's allowing for robust regular financial reporting, enhanced fiscal recordkeeping, advice and assistance to City agencies, and able participation in the budgeting and auditing process.

Most of the City's officials and board appointments have been filled, at least once, including the ranks of the Code Enforcement, Ethics, Forest, and Parks and Recreation Boards. Vacancies continue to come up in these important positions, of course, as resident moves and other complications arise, so it's been especially encouraging to see continued interest in supporting these important City functions.

"Provided as a service to our neighbors"

Outreach efforts to promote community networking have been strenuous and ongoing, including comprehensive Web postings and archives; energetic social media interaction; electronic mail feeds for both routine and emergency notices; hard-copy mail for state-mandated materials; monthly Council meetings, and periodic town hall gatherings; topical surveys; quarterly newsletters; and old-fashioned phone and office calls, and over-the-fence conversation. Having effective means to get the word out, and to hear what comes back, is at least as important as the substance itself.

Capital projects. With the City's fiscal health recovered, some deferred maintenance and capital improvements are ongoing. Rotting window frames and their leaky single panes have been replaced in the most vulnerable areas of City Hall, and the rest budgeted. Failing furnace and air conditioning units in the police station upstairs have been replaced, and a more serious system overhaul for downstairs is being bid. Entrance columns have been professionally restored, and arrangements set for regular protective care; power supplies for lighting (electric, gas, or both) are under solicitation. Aged and unreliable service vehicles have been sold, and replaced where essential. The most urgent road repairs have been completed, and remaining needs charted for the coming year, as resources permit. Much work still remains, for sure, but progress is encouraging.

In this improving fiscal environment, one of the more pleasant problems to confront has been the development of proper accounting procedures to conserve available resources from year to year, to set a longer-term perspective for City planning in capital investments like road repair, parks development, legal exposure, storm damage recovery, and reforestation. Research accompanying the current audit, together with fund management tools already adopted, have yielded management and reporting techniques we can use to carry over and incorporate unspent funds to complete unfinished work and/or meet future needs.

Non-capital projects. Less visible, but just as urgent for our health as a community, are the updating,

revising and streamlining of the City's legal and administrative systems. Major efforts continue, at the frustratingly slow pace forced by the broad scope of these tasks. The City's code of ordinances is being updated to conform to the last 20 years of new state law; restructured to make a coherent body out of the patchwork of provisions adopted over its lifetime; and simplified to minimize duplication, overlap, obscure text and obsolete provisions.

Similar projects are chartered or under way targeting the City's employee handbook; Council orientation materials; staff procedure manuals; records management system; insurance coverage; and tax assessment and collection system. Ongoing litigation is being rigorously defended, to minimize the City's exposure or vulnerability.

This year also marked the occasion for renewing the state accreditation of the City's police department, which affirms its full range of law enforcement services and authority; provides for a healthy discount in insurance premiums; qualifies full-time officers (both of them) for a modest stipend; and confirms the City's standing as a credible player in local law enforcement efforts. Chief Sweeney and his staff deserve enormous credit for their success in this very demanding effort, even as their regular duties have kept the City's crime rate enviably low, and built strong community relationships.

In addition to its annual financial audit, the City had its first recent audit of insurance factors this year, producing a long checklist of safety- and liability-related items to cover in the course of the various administrative projects noted above. In addition to making the City a safer place, addressing these factors systematically will help reduce our legal exposure, and the resulting risk factors and insurance premiums.

Waste management. This year concluded a three-year waste collection contract. A broad effort to get the best new arrangements possible included a community-wide survey of preferred services, and a comprehensive bid package sent to potential vendors. In the end, the new contract was won by Waste Management, LLC, our previous provider, with a

proposal that included providing all services on Tuesdays; reducing household garbage collection from two days to one per week; consolidating services for multiple dwellings; issuing large wheeled recycling carts to all customers; and updating customer service provisions – all at a net reduced cost amounting to about \$75 annually for each single household. The new contract arrangements seem to be working fairly smoothly so far, though close monitoring continues.

Utility and service work. This year saw several utility projects undertaken, large and small, bringing opportunities to remind service providers of their obligation to keep residents informed, and to treat their property responsibly. The main oversight tool we have is the permitting process required for utility work in the City. Citizens were reminded to insist that anyone who wants to enter private property show a proper permit – or call City Hall and ask if one's been issued. Our police remain prepared to assist in resolving any situation that may result. This also helps with outreach, so all providers can be better informed of the reasonable protective and communications functions the City performs by law.

Among the more prominent projects were those involving fiber-optic cable for super-fast Internet access. AT&T installed trunk lines along the main routes in the western part of the City, to Oriole Drive. They have not made any connections to individual residences from these lines, though a recent mailing to private customers suggests they're about ready to do so. While expected, no application has yet reached City Hall for extending the project into the rest of the City, east of Oriole. Some related issues such as deficient preparatory tree trimming remain under scrutiny and follow-up.

The Google "uniform franchise agreement" for fiber-optic service in the metro area was a subject of intense effort by the Jefferson County League of Cities, but was not successfully concluded, and appears to be on hold. AT&T's suit challenging an unexpected Metro ordinance allowing third parties (like Google) to move existing equipment on utility poles to accommodate new lines remains pending, and may have contributed to suspending the project.

Forest Management. The Forest Board has done an admirable job of maintaining and restoring our urban canopy, helping to counter the effects of nearby barren areas like the Fairgrounds and the airport. It's an inspiration to watch their work, and a privilege to pitch in when they call for help. Additional City revenue was made available this year to support the Board's work, and helped pay for major projects like cabling and structural pruning of older trees in the parks. In addition to age and urban environment, the emerald ash borer has joined other insect and disease threats to complicate the Board's work, so they deserve special thanks and support for their steely determination to restore and sustain this defining feature of our community.

Parks Development. Because our small parks are public spaces, in addition to maintaining their natural beauty, it's important they attract people, especially our children, with facilities they want to use. The Forest Board began a 'playscapes' initiative to plan fun things that blend smoothly into a natural environment: tire swings, log hops, treehouses, underbrush fortresses, etc. They've worked closely in a handoff with the Parks & Rec Board to identify suitable locations and facilities for the new generation. Tire and infant swings now hang in Wren and Oriole Parks, and a higher swing awaits installation in Crossbill Park. Other developments are expected to follow.

Community Activities. This year provided an outstanding combination of public and private fun in our public spaces, from a memorable Dogwood Festival celebration, to an impromptu Easter egg hunt in Robin Park, to a first-grade class's school's-out picnic and squirt-gun fight in Wren, to an excellent Independence Day parade starting from Oriole, to a spectacular block party on Dove Road, and a standout fall Auktoberfest. The Parks & Rec Board continues to work on other prospects like collateral support for existing events (e.g., Memorial and Veterans Day flag ceremonies, Garden Tour, Community Christmas celebration), and new activities like movie nights, concerts, farmer's market, a 5- or 10K run event, and similar possibilities.

There seems little risk of idle time in the effort to keep up with this large City agenda. I can promise you we'll keep doing our best. When Jason, and the police patrols, and that guy on the bike go by, don't forget to wave! Meanwhile, the best of wishes for a happy holiday season, a merry Christmas, and peace and prosperity in the new year!

FOREST BOARD NEWS

Leah Netherland

Try to imagine our tree canopy with one of every four street trees gone. A recent inventory of all Audubon Park trees within 10 feet of the roadway edge shows that 25% of these are Ash trees. This does not even include the Ash trees that we are losing in front yards. All of these trees will succumb to the Emerald Ash Borer in the next 5-10 years unless they are receiving active treatment on a consistent basis.

We are offering our Ash Tree Replacement Tree Planting Program again for homeowners who qualify. If you have an Ash tree in your yard you may apply for a removal permit at City Hall. If the permit is approved and you have a spot where a canopy tree could be replanted you would be refunded \$250 toward the cost of removal once a tree was replanted by the Forest Board. Our replacement programs are usually limited to public right of way areas. This program will also include front yard areas as long as funds are available.

Please try to keep your Ash tree as long as possible because a mature canopy tree provides many more benefits than a new smaller tree. But if your tree is ready to come down, contact City Hall to see if you are eligible for this program.

BE SAFE! ENJOY YOUR HOLIDAYS!

Chief Doug Sweeney

With the holiday season in full swing, I want to remind everyone to be extra vigilant - while you are out and about, and at home, also! Criminals want to give their loved ones nice things too - they just don't want to pay for them! So - they will take YOUR gifts!

PLEASE! Don't make it easy! LOCK your car, garage, and house doors! Install outside motion activated lights, or make sure the ones you have are working.

Cut away bushes and trees that obscure your windows - making it easy to see crooks hiding behind them, as they work to break into your home.

Do not leave items of value in your vehicles! If a crook sees something worth stealing, then they may not care if the doors are locked; he/she will break out a window to get it (it is rare that one will risk the noise or setting off an alarm breaking out a window of a locked car UNLESS something of value is in plain sight).

When you are out shopping, BE AWARE of your surroundings when going to your car with your purchased items.

During the holidays, incidents rise where packages delivered by UPS, FedEx, etc. are being stolen almost as soon as they are laid on the recipient's porch. If you are having things delivered, try to include special instructions to deliver in the rear if possible, if you can't be home, or - better yet - see if a neighbor who is usually home will accept delivery.

When you are out shopping, ALWAYS be aware of your surroundings. LOOK around and see if anyone is near your car when you are taking packages out - and put them IN THE TRUNK if you will be going back into a store; do NOT leave those items visible in your vehicle. HAVE YOUR KEYS OUT AND READY before you get to your car , or your house.

Ladies, if you are out shopping after dark, make sure you exit a store when others are walking out too - or ask an associate at a store to walk you out. Most will try to accommodate you.

To reiterate, LEAVE NOTHING OF VALUE IN YOUR CAR, and lock the doors! Do not leave your garage doors open, either, even when you are home.

Common sense and caution can go a long way to ensuring you are not a victim of some thief's larceny!

Above all, BE SAFE, and have a MERRY CHRISTMAS OR HANUKKAH, AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

“Provided as a service to our neighbors”

AUDUBON PARK GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Joanne Bader

Christmas Community Celebration Open House

Despite the cool and rainy weather, Audubon Park Garden Club welcomed a nice crowd to its annual *Christmas Community Celebration* at City Hall on Sunday, December 11th from 6-8 pm. Nearly 60 neighbors and friends came to this event which ushers in the holiday season and focuses on fellowship and community spirit! The Garden Club provided wonderful refreshments including hot cider, coffee and delicious holiday cookies! The winners of the cash door prizes were Nancy Shelton (\$50) and Joanne Bader (\$100). (No, I didn't fix the drawing!!!!)

Residents have traditionally been asked to decorate doorways and homes by Saturday evening, December 10th to ensure that Audubon Park looks its best for the many visitors who enjoy driving or strolling through our city during the holiday season to see the beautifully decorated homes in our historic neighborhood. It is wonderful to see more homes decorated with colorful Christmas lights this year!

The Garden Club would like to thank the many residents who helped decorate the lampposts along Audubon's streets, and would encourage those streets that don't currently decorate to join in next year! The beautifully decorated lampposts add to the festive atmosphere, and definitely help everyone get in the holiday spirit. The Community Christmas Celebration (and City newsletter) would like to acknowledge those decorating volunteers; if you know who decorates the lampposts on your street, please call Anita Garrison at 637-8837 so we can add their names to our lists.

Despite Obstacles, Residents Help in Brightside Cleanup in October

About eight resident volunteers came out on a pleasant Saturday morning for the semiannual Brightside cleanup effort on October 22nd. Under the direction of volunteer coordinator, Cathy Lally, ten bags of trash, weeds, and leaves were collected as the group beautified the City's western entrance on Preston Highway. This year's efforts were hindered

by the construction work at the entrance to the Park at Preston and Audubon Parkway, but that didn't deter our wonderful volunteers, who redirected their work along Preston towards the railroad overpass. The next Brightside cleanup will be held in late April 2017. Hope you can join us then!

Festival of the Dogwood

Although it is still several months away, please mark your calendars for the upcoming Festival of the Dogwood which will be held during the weekend of April 21-23, 2017. The Garden Club hopes that we can encourage more residents to light up their trees, homes or other flowering plants or shrubs next year – and remember, don't wait till the last minute to purchase spotlights as these are often sold out just prior to the festival. More information will be provided about the festival in the spring newsletter which is delivered to resident homes in March.

Upcoming Garden Club Programs

The Garden Club hosts a monthly program series from September to May. These monthly programs are open to all residents and their guests and are held at Audubon Park City Hall, 3340 Robin Road, beginning at 1 pm (unless otherwise noted). Upcoming programs include:

Monday, January 9, 2017: "The Birds of Audubon Park," with presentations by members of the Garden Club to acquaint you with the "birds" that our streets are named after. This will be a fun program that will help you learn more about the lesser known bird species (e.g. the Curlew) that are recognized in our street and park names as well as the more familiar species such as Cardinals, Robins and Doves.

Monday, February 13, 2017: "Boxwoods," with guest speaker Jacquelyn McGrail, a Master Gardener, Landscape Design Consultant, and past President of The Rambler Garden Club. This program is held during the annual winter pot-luck luncheon to be held at Audubon Baptist Church, 1046 Hess Lane at 11:00 am. There is no charge to attend the luncheon but reservations should be made by calling Grace Worful at 375-9041.

"Provided as a service to our neighbors"

Monday, March 13, 2017: "I Love Roses," with guest speaker Janet Miller from the Louisville Rose Society.

Monday, April 10, 2017: "Shade Gardens," with guest speaker Jeff Wallitsch of Wallitsch Nursery and Garden Center.

Tuesday, May 9, 2017: "Waterfront Botanical Gardens – An Update," with guest speakers Kasey Maier and Becca Barhost from Botanica. This program will be held during the spring luncheon at Audubon Country Club, 3265 Robin Road at 11:45 am. Reservations are required and information about the luncheon can be obtained by calling Grace Worful at 375-9041.

Remember – membership is no longer restricted to Audubon Park residents only... If you know of someone interested in joining the Garden Club, please have them contact Membership Chairman Gene Stotz at 634-4921.

HELLO - WHO'S THERE?

Audubon Park continues to attract talented people, in both its resident volunteer officials and its employees. The bad news is, this creates turnover, as people of this caliber are actively sought in other challenging assignments. The good news is, we've been very fortunate in finding equally skilled and motivated replacements. Here are the latest you should meet.

Included are the first entries from our incoming City Council; more to follow in future issues as their introductions become available.

As you get acquainted with these new faces, don't forget to appreciate our outgoing members: Joanne Bader, Drew Perkins, Laura Stevens, Tony Williams, and Nancy Zinner, who've worked so hard in the term now ending to make Audubon Park a better place to live. We owe a great debt to their dogged efforts on the City's behalf. Please be sure to pass your own thoughts along as you see these stalwart citizens around the neighborhood. No doubt we'll continue to benefit from their contributions in many other ways in the months and years ahead. Fair winds and following seas, one and all!



Lisa Weaver
Councilor-elect

I've been a resident since 1993. I live with my husband Ray, and have two now-grown children: Alex, 24, and Claire, 22.

I was a past Naturalist with Kentucky State Parks so am knowledgeable on Kentucky trees, plants, birds and wildlife. I also used to be an Assistant Director at the Louisville Science Center where I managed several large building and exhibit projects and with budgets of up to \$2 million. I think my experience will serve me well as a Council member and I look forward to serving the community.



Brittney Gorter
Councilor-elect

I've lived on Robin Road since July 2015 with my husband Kristopher and our amazing 5 year old daughter Grace. We are parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi where my daughter also attends pre-K. I am the Director

of Marketing & Communications at the Kentucky Derby Museum where I bring my career passions to the public. I was born in Louisville, attended St. Joseph in Butchertown, Presentation Academy and the University of Louisville.

I have always adored the authentic beauty of Audubon Park! We love to ride bikes, play on the swings throughout the parks, attend and volunteer at various community events as well as take pride in our own home. I became involved in the Parks & Rec Board after volunteering at various events and look forward to continuing to volunteer my time and expertise as a Council member. I have enjoyed getting to know residents of the area when also volunteering for the Forest Board – no better way to support our great community than get your hands in the dirt and pull some weeds or spread some mulch!

I truly love Audubon Park and sought election as a Council member as a way to utilize and extend my passion and skills I have learned serving on various boards, working in the non-profit sector, and volunteering. I want to make Audubon the best place to live and play!



John Locke
Police Officer

John was born in Louisville, and attended Beechmont Elementary. His family moved in 7th grade, and he graduated from Hart County High School in 1980. John went to the University of Louisville for 3 semesters

before joining the Army. He served in the Army for 20 years, with military specialty 19E (Tank Crewman), then 19D (Cavalry Scout). He was on the 82nd Airborne Rapid Deployment Force at Fort Bragg when the first Gulf War started, and was on the third airplane to Saudi Arabia when the deployment for Desert Shield/Desert Storm began. He spent about 8 months in Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

John retired from the military in 2001. He immediately began his career with the Louisville Division of Police (soon to become the Louisville Metro Police Department). John served in a variety of positions with Louisville Metro Police including Patrol Officer, Flex Detective, Narcotics Detective (Technical Operations Team) and Patrol Sergeant. He was promoted to Sergeant in 2014, and spent his last 2 years as a Patrol Sergeant in the 2nd Division. John retired from the Louisville Metro Police Department effective October 1st, 2016.

John holds an Associate Degree from Campbell University, Buies Creek, NC; a Bachelor's Degree from Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL; and a Master's Degree from Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY. John has also completed numerous law enforcement schools, to include the Academy of Police Supervision at Richmond, KY. John holds KLEC certifications of Intermediate Law Enforcement Officer and Advanced Law Enforcement Officer, and is currently awaiting confirmation of his KLEC Law Enforcement Supervisor Certification. John has been married to Debra for 22 years, and has 5 children.

Be Safe While Walking, Biking or Running

Please wear reflective clothing or other reflective gear – or, better still, carry powered lights – if you are out running, biking or walking in reduced light. It can be very difficult to see you if you are wearing dark clothing! Please take personal responsibility for this so accidents don't occur – you may be harder to see than you think!



John Schulte
Police Officer

John was born in Louisville and attended Ballard High School, and was graduated from the University of Louisville with a BS degree in Police Administration.

He was hired by the former Louisville Division of Police (LPD) in 1986 and retired from the LMPD in 2008. While at LPD/LMPD John served in several divisions: the West End, Old Louisville, and Highlands areas, as well as serving a few years in the K-9 unit. He also served in the 6th Division, which includes the area around Audubon Park, so he is familiar with us.

After retirement, John went to work for the Oldham County Sheriff's Department from 2008 until 2013. John's mother was elderly and in need of care so left the Sheriff's office. She has since passed away, and John is ready to return to a part-time position in Law Enforcement.

John is currently single, and has 2 grown children and 1 grandchild with another on the way.

Finally, early in his career he was a beat partner with our own Lt. Ray Patterson!

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

In addition to community calendars, event notices, meeting schedules, and official information, the entire City Code of Ordinances is available on the Web site, *AudubonParkKY.org*, with provisions on parking, permit requirements, nuisance abatement, and all the rest. Please visit often!

- Speed limits and other traffic control measures are strictly enforced, for your safety and security. The City speed limit is 25 mph.
- There is no parking permitted on the street between 2 AM and 6 AM. There is also no parking permitted on the grass. Please inform visitors of this important information.
- Pets must be leashed or otherwise under their owner's positive control when outside. The return of spring birds is a special reminder to keep cats and others from straying. And when dog walking, *please pick up after them.*

- Building, tree, and property 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 like to have a yard sale, please call or come by City Hall for more information on obtaining a permit.
- Report any streetlights that are out of order or malfunctioning to City Hall, at 637-5066. This input will be relayed to LG&E for repairs.
- Please discourage children and others from climbing trees in the various City parks, out of concern for both safety and potential damage.
- Information regarding ash trees and the emerald ash borer is available at City Hall, and on the Tree Committee's Web site, *TreeCommittee-APKY.org*.
- Waste of all types – garbage, recycling and yard waste – is collected on Tuesdays (with occasional exceptions for holidays). Garbage is picked up from behind your house, while yard waste and recycling items are to be placed at the curb. Be sure to report any missed collection to City Hall.

COMMUNICATIONS

The City is committed to a maximum flow of information and civic dialogue, and has a variety of platforms for these purposes:

- This quarterly **newsletter** with updates, reports and discussions of City programs, events, services and facilities. The newsletter is published on the Web site, social media, and email subscriber list, and every other issue is delivered on paper to all residences.
- The **Web site**, *AudubonParkKY.org*, which is the City's open archive of municipal reference data –

organizational, historical, fiscal, legal, and social. Links are also provided to the other media listed.

- **Social media** pages, used to make announcements, schedule activities and events, exchange ideas, and promote dialogue. Three Facebook pages are in use: *Audubon Park Residents*, the main civic page; *Friends of Audubon Park*, with smaller subscription but generally the same content; and *City of Audubon Park Police*, focusing on law enforcement and public safety.
- An **email subscriber list** distributing the newsletter and notices of City activities and events. Please sign up on the Web site, under the Community/Resident Information tab, at "Audubon Park News."
- An urgent **notification system**, with email, text or voicemail options, for emergency and other alert messages. Please subscribe to this system, on the same page, at "ReachAlert."
- The variety of regular public Council and board **meetings**, listed on the Web calendar.
- Or, just dropping by **City Hall**, for information or an informal chat.

Please take advantage of all these resources for civic awareness and engagement.

State law also requires ordinances and some other official notices to be published, either by newspaper, or first-class direct mail. With current newspaper circulation, and rates, mailings are a much better choice – so you may see things like this in your mailbox from time to time.

Beyond those mandates, we're on our own, and just want to find the channels that do the best (and cheapest!) job of getting the word out. What are your thoughts and ideas?



"Provided as a service to our neighbors"