



# The Official Newsletter of The City of Audubon Park



Dorn Crawford, Mayor  
Janette Mercer, City Clerk  
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637-5066  
[www.AudubonParkKY.org](http://www.AudubonParkKY.org)  
 Audubon Park Residents



City Council:

Joanne Bader	Laura Stevens
Drew Perkins	Tony Williams
Darrell Shelton	Nancy Zinner

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June 2016

## MAYOR'S MUSINGS

*Dorn Crawford*

Suddenly it's summer! Hope everybody had a great spring, and that things will settle down a little after a very busy season. A few developments that may be of interest:

**Taxes.** After considerable debate, the property tax rate went up by 1.2¢ per \$100 assessed value, to 28.2¢ (for a \$200K home, this amounts to a \$24 increase for the year). This was meant to help catch up with deferred maintenance and other shortfalls covered in our discussions at the Town Hall and related publications and meetings. This also takes account of a reduced overall tax burden brought about under the new waste management contract (see separate article below for details). On the average, the total individual tax bill was about \$50 less this year, while the City's general fund revenue should increase by about \$14K. Along with reduced spending in other areas, this will really help with things like repairing our entrances; fixing or replacing failing City Hall fixtures; and providing a small wage hike for our beat officers to reduce turnover.

**Budget.** Aside from some squeezing to accommodate increased insurance premiums, the budget finally adopted at the June Council meeting is essentially as proposed with the budget message circulated on May 2. The immediate needs noted above are covered, and with past deficits overcome, there are some resources added for reforestation, supplemental road repair funds, and a combined set-aside in case of need for line-of-credit use or other unforeseen expenses. The enacting budget ordinance should be

reaching you by mail (as required by law) about the same time as this newsletter.

**Waste Management.** The final budget also reflects updated figures for the restricted fund supporting our new waste management contract, with more details covered in the separate article below. This three-year contract takes effect July 1.

**Fiber-Optic Cable Installation.** The buzz about Google's possible installation of fiber-optic cable in the Louisville area to provide 1-gigabit/second Internet service has produced a flurry of inter-governmental activity to try to come up with uniform regulations to apply to the whole area. This has had only limited success. You may have heard about Metro government's unexpected new ordinance allowing incoming providers to move existing equipment on utility poles to accommodate their own. This legislation predictably drew an immediate lawsuit from AT&T, with uncertain impact on the project.

More recently, Metro made sweeping changes in their own adoption of a proposed "uniform franchise agreement" all cities were being encouraged to adopt. This agreement, drafted by Jefferson County League of Cities (JCLC), would be the vehicle to bring Google and perhaps others into the market on a common regulatory basis. It's not clear at this writing how the other cities can adapt their own versions of the "uniform" text to mesh with the altered Metro script. The text also has other legal and functional problems JCLC hasn't been able to resolve.

AT&T, meanwhile, has evoked a 'perpetual franchise' granted by the state to its predecessor, the Bell

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Company, in 1886, claiming the right to proceed with their own installation without needing any local franchises. And, as many in the western part of Audubon Park have found, they've already begun hurried steps to prepare for installation – sending, in our case, an uncertified and apparently underperforming out-of-town crew to prune trees around existing lines. This activity, unannounced and unpermitted, produced several complaints of tree harm, debris, and collateral property and utility damage, before the crew was sent away pending proper certification. This experience has, if nothing else, highlighted the need to retain City authority to address such situations in any “uniform” arrangement.

It's disappointing, if not surprising, that a service as desirable as this has been put at such risk by these and other similar missteps. You can be sure we'll be pressing to see it still delivered, uniformly or otherwise, with common sense and due regard to the City's integrity.

*Utilities.* The broader theme from the above is a reminder of the City's commitment to improve information flow and accountability for all service providers. Current ordinances already require permits for any utility-related tree trimming, trenching or equipment installation. This is for the protection of all residents, to verify providers and subcontractors are certified, fully insured, and perform responsibly. It's also a way to let everybody know when and where work like this is expected, so they can plan for it and be informed about it.

As the City has reached out to the various providers, they've generally been receptive and cooperative, once informed. Our basic premise is that citizens of Audubon Park shouldn't have their lives or property disrupted without notice, and good cause. You should always insist that anyone you didn't hire who wants to enter your property show a proper permit – or just call City Hall and ask if one's been issued. Our police are happy to assist you 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.

*Activities.* Summer is the time to get outside, of course, and enjoy good company, good fellowship, and a good time! The upcoming program includes our annual Independence Day parade, to be held this year on Saturday, July 2; and the not-to-be-missed Block Party on Dove Road, Saturday, July 30. See the synopsis in this issue, mark your calendar, and watch for additional flyers and notices as the dates get closer! Please pitch in to help with these events – and don't forget, our parks are public spaces, where you can start your own traditions, as a recent small school's-out picnic, the 'Rumble in Wren,' demonstrated. Be sure to turn out, and have a super summer, everybody!

## **WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

### *Features of the New Service Contract*

This article reprises this spring's mailings and media posts about the updated Audubon Park waste management contract that takes effect July 1<sup>st</sup>. This contract was awarded based on competitive bids over a wide range of current and potential services, with some very useful input from a community survey conducted last winter.

Also accompanying this newsletter is a consolidated handout from our vendor, Waste Management of Kentucky, listing collection standards for general waste and for recycling, and holidays that may affect collection schedules. These publications are not new, but are being recirculated to insure all current residents have them.

Here's an outline of services our new waste management contract will provide:

- All pickups – garbage, recycling, and yard waste – will be on *Tuesdays*.
- Garbage will continue to be collected behind the house.
- Residents will be issued 64-gallon wheeled recycling carts for curbside collection.

- Yard waste can be put at the curb by any of the current means: bundled, in biodegradable bags, or reusable containers.
- Apartment and condo building owners will only pay one yard waste fee.
- Large building dwellers (8 or more units) will share a small dumpster on a trial basis, to see if they can be kept tidy enough to take advantage of the cost savings.
- Because of the all-Tuesday feature, there'll be more active 'discouragement' of putting containers out too early, or retrieving them too late.

Between competitive bidding and the service changes above, the overall annual contract cost to the City has been reduced by about \$50,000. Since this is now a restricted account, the savings go directly back to the City's residents. For single-family homes (including duplex and triplex), the annual fee was reduced by about \$75 from last year – and for multi-family units, proportionally more.

The contract is for a three-year run, but includes the option to change any of the new elements that don't measure up along the way. Please keep an eye on how it's going, and let us know what you think.

Some added details on what to expect in the near term (watch for further announcements!):

- During the last week of June, the collectors will drop off recycling carts at the curb for each residence and business. These wheeled carts are meant both to provide more capacity, and to roll easily to the curb for regular pickups. Please take yours in promptly, and let City Hall (637-5066) or WM (966-0117) know of any not received.
- The old small recycling bins may be placed at the curb for pickup at a designated time, or kept for use by the resident.
- Small dumpsters will be placed at agreed locations for designated large (8+ unit) buildings before the first pickup under the new contract. Other

receptacles at those locations should be stored for other uses or disposed of.

- July 1 is a Friday, which is no longer a collection day under the new contract, so household and yard waste should *not* be put out.
- The following Monday is Independence Day, so as usual, all collections that week come a day later. That means our household, yard and recycling waste will be collected on Wednesday, July 6. In the weeks to follow, all collections will take place on Tuesdays.

We should expect some 'growing pains' under the new arrangements. Please keep in touch with any problems needing attention.

## **ORIOLE – THE PERFECT URBAN PARK**

*Anne Bobigian*

*[This installment is the latest in an ongoing series Anne has undertaken to document the essential physical, historical and cultural features of Audubon Park's crown jewels, the five 'pocket parks.' – ed.]*

Oriole is a classic urban park, centrally located and flat, with a pleasant shaded walkway skirting one side, adjacent to the Maxwells' property. One tribute to this park is that it has four memorial benches for people to sit and relax – more than any of the other parks. The Forest Board has been working on improving the vistas from each bench so users are shaded, but enjoy a view into the park with a focal point of interest from each bench.

For years, Oriole Park hosted the September Arts and Crafts Festival, and more recently last fall's 'Auktoberfest.' It has also become the gathering place for Audubon Park's Independence Day parade and festivities.

One reason Oriole Park became a center for events was the generosity of the Maxwells, who lived in the adjacent home for over 50 years. Their lots span the entire distance from Oriole to Thrush. Dr. Edward Maxwell and his wife Ethelyn freely offered their garage area, driveway, water and electricity for the

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Garden Club's use in the Fall Festival, and cared for many of the trees in the Park at their own expense. What we take to be a driveway, the small road leading back toward the Maxwell garages, is actually a public way, with their driveway proper coming off at the end, at a right angle. People traversing on foot can continue on the unpaved pathway through the park to Thrush. The back portion of the Maxwells' lot has remained undeveloped and adds great tranquility to the park surroundings. The path, which has three mature beautiful trees, a pin oak, a zelkova, and a willow oak, ends with a Japanese tree lilac that Ethelyn Maxwell planted from seed many years ago. (In 2007, she handed your writer some seeds she collected from the tree because she wanted them propagated, and exclaimed "I never thought it would get so big!" as we walked around the tree to inspect it.)

Behind these three trees is a shrub border that separates the park and the Maxwells' back lot. It forms an urban wildlife habitat of sheltering shrubs and dogwoods, which explains why the park, despite its small size, has a great diversity of birds, including resident hawks that breed year after year. The path itself lies over the old trolley bed, and is firmly packed and generally dry underfoot.

This park, like the others, has undergone a transformation since 2005. In part due to vehicle traffic into the root zone of trees in the park, when people drove into the park to set up booths for the Fall Festival, there was substantial tree loss in the center of the park and along the Oriole Court street side. Compaction is a major problem for urban trees. Unlike Wren Park, where pin oaks have remained healthy, two very large pin oaks were lost in the last 10 years in Oriole Park, as well as many dogwoods. The largest pin oak, off the path, remained healthy, because it has had protection from compaction by having root access to the undeveloped area in the rear part of the Maxwells' lot.

Replanting Oriole started with a grant from the National Garden Clubs in 2006, and included two sweet gums (supposedly fruitless – you be the

judge!), a heritage birch and a yellowwood. Subsequently, additional species have been added, including black gum, American chestnut hybrids, white oaks, and several beech (both American and European red beech) and a willow oak. A special katsura tree was planted in Ethelyn's memory across from her Japanese tree lilac in 2013. The area adjacent to the electrical wires and along the paved public way was planted with species on LG&E's list approved for being adjacent to overhead utility wires, including Virginia fringe trees, Carolina hornbeams, and Allegheny serviceberries. In addition, the stump site for the pin oak, and the removal sites of several massive invasive euonymus bushes were developed into a butterfly garden beginning in 2013.

With the renewal of adequate shade, the Forest Board has started replanting of dogwoods. Two were added in 2015, and another two in 2016.

#### *Keeping the Park Healthy*

As we begin to use the park for gathering again, particularly for the Independence Day events, it will be important to minimize compaction problems for new trees that are just beginning to flourish. The Forest Board, working with Parks and Recreation Board, has kept several areas open, and works to insure off-pavement vehicle use will be minimized.

In the last maintenance year, the mature trees received much-needed deadwooding and care to minimize risk of branch breakage, particularly along Oriole Drive. The Forest Board has started a mulching program in the parks, including Oriole, to improve water infiltration in the root zone of trees, particularly the remaining mature dogwoods. This can improve soil health and permeability over a 3-5 year period.

#### *What Can We Learn From Oriole Park?*

1) Backyard and urban wildlife habitats can be effectively incorporated into parks by developing shelter edges and plantings under canopy trees. Last year, invasive plants were removed from the shrub edge, and new native plants like persimmons and hazels will be added over time.

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Please check out the movement to certify wildlife habitat yards (much like developing butterfly gardens). Visit <http://www.nwf.org/Garden-For-Wildlife/Create.aspx>. See also the recent Tree City USA bulletin, "Trees for Wildlife", no. 13. A copy is available at City Hall, and additional copies can be ordered at [arborday.org/bulletins](http://arborday.org/bulletins). There are a number of useful guides, including The Wildlife Gardener's Guide by the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and Landscaping for Wildlife from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Other sources can be found at [arborday.org/bulletins](http://arborday.org/bulletins).

2) In urban forest areas, compaction needs to be minimized and managed. Tree roots need oxygen. Soils that have been crushed become too dense to allow roots to breathe; in addition, water no longer penetrates readily. The area will often become waterlogged. Poorly absorbed surface water makes it seem like a "wet area," but actually the roots can experience lack of water, since water no longer infiltrates readily into the soil depths. The structural roots that hold the tree to the ground can begin to rot in compacted waterlogged soils. In many urban areas, compaction and associated "waterlogging" have been identified as a major precursor to failure of large trees during storms. These trees don't show basal rot in the trunk, but their grip on the soil becomes severely compromised and they experience catastrophic failure.

3) Oriole Park benefits greatly from the fact that the rear undeveloped double lot held by the Maxwells creates privacy and a sense of beckoning at the edge – almost like the "Secret Garden" in the popular children's book. The Maxwell property will probably undergo a transition in the next year, and the possible development of the back lot would have a major impact on the ambience of Oriole Park. Loss of green space, which we have taken for granted up until now, can have significant impact on wildlife, and planning may be useful in making an inventory of such green spaces outside the parks themselves to consider prospects for preservation.

### **CPR/AED & FIRST AID CERTIFICATION CLASS**

*Classes held every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat at Audubon Country Club*

Would you be willing to trade 4 to 6 hours of your time to save a life?

Audubon Country Club is hosting Audubon Park Police officers in the conduct of monthly training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and use of the automated external defibrillator (AED), as well as first aid certification courses. The class will be taught from 1 PM to 7PM for the full class, or 1PM to 5PM for the CPR/AED-only class.

We want to train people in the lifesaving skills of CPR/AED and first aid developed by the American Heart Association. You will be able to choose one or both classes. We have reduced the fee 10% for area residents. This fee covers the cost of manuals and equipment. Upon successful completion of the class, you will be certified to perform CPR and utilize an AED, and perform first aid – but more importantly, you will have the confidence to act.

The CPR class also includes use of the Naloxone nasal device. This drug has been used to counteract overdoses of opioids contained in heroin and various prescription medications.

The Louisville Metro Emergency Medical Services (EMS) do a fantastic job – but they have to respond to the call for service, and most response times average 7 to 9 minutes. During cardiac arrest, brain death can occur in 6 minutes, with serious brain injury in as little as 2 minutes. CPR works and saves lives. Please don't put off today what could save someone tomorrow.

*Course Registration, with 10% discount:*

CPR/AED and First aid: \$67.00

CPR/AED only: \$40.50

First Aid only: \$30.00

Contact Officer Chris Heaps, 502-303-8408  
(please call after noon, as I work night shift!)

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## AUDUBON PARK GARDEN CLUB NEWS

*Joanne Bader*

### *Audubon Park Garden Tour – Saturday, June 25th*

Audubon Park's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Tour is scheduled for Saturday, June 25th from 10 am to 4 pm. Tickets for the event will be available at City Hall on the day of the event for \$15. There will also be a plant sale and refreshments at City Hall. Plants offered for sale come from local gardens within Audubon Park and sell out quickly! The Garden Club will also be selling Palm Flex garden gloves for \$6/pair. We hope you will invite family and friends to join you in touring the local gardens; all proceeds from the event are returned to the community via funds for park maintenance or plantings, or for community-wide events such as the Community Christmas Celebration and the Dogwood Festival.

### *Festival of the Dogwood Again Shines Brightly*

Audubon Park was blessed with a beautiful display of blooms during the annual Festival of the Dogwood. The official lighting to open the festival was held Friday night during Light Up Audubon! – a wonderful event, organized by the City's Parks and Rec Board, that paired the city's dedication to its urban forest with the beauty of our dogwood trees! Light Up Audubon! attracted *huge* crowds due to amazing weather and the lack of conflicting citywide events. It was a terrific opener to the Festival of the Dogwood! Sunday's concert at Audubon Baptist Church on Hess Lane traditionally marks the end of the festival and was well attended. Music was provided by the River Cities Concert Band and they did a fabulous job as always. The concert is underwritten by residents Louis and Carol Korb – to whom we owe a debt of gratitude for providing such a lovely free community event! Several dignitaries attended or spoke during the concert: Pat Mulvihill, 10<sup>th</sup> District Council Member; Jim Wayne, State Rep for the 35<sup>th</sup> district; Morgan McGarvey, State Senator for District 19; and Mayor Dorn Crawford. The Garden Club would like to thank the residents of Audubon Park who spotlighted

trees and flowering shrubs and beautified their yards to the visual enjoyment of visitors and residents alike.

### *Audubon Park Open House –Second Event Welcomed Neighbors on March 28<sup>th</sup>*

For the second year, the Garden Club joined forces with City government officials to sponsor an open house where residents could meet with City officials and members of other City groups/boards to share thoughts and ideas and allow questions to be answered in an informal setting. We had nearly 20 people attend, including some new park residents, and most found the evening fun and informative.

### *Successful Brightside Cleanup on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>*

Brightside's Community Wide Spring Cleanup was held Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, helped by 10 local residents and volunteers who came out to clean up along the Preston entrance to Audubon Park. About 12 bags of garbage were collected on a pleasant sunny morning. The Garden Club sponsors neighborhood cleanups along Preston Highway in conjunction with Brightside twice a year in the spring and fall. Cathy Lally coordinates the event, and can be reached at 773-0780 for more information. Come and be a part of making Audubon Park a more beautiful community!

### *Upcoming Garden Club Programs*

Garden Club programs go on hiatus during the busy summer growing season. They will resume in September and a listing of programs will be posted on the City website in August. Stay tuned...

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.

#### *Membership Information – Garden Club*

President – Jane Jonczy, 239-4468

Membership – Gene Stotz, 634-4921

Treasurer – Janet Shumate, 636-0111

Secretary (Corresponding) – Nancy Zinner, 636-2150

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## AUDUBON PARK GARDEN CLUB NEEDS YOU!

*Nancy Zinner*

"Me – I work five days a week, long hours!"

"I'm a guy... why would I be interested in flowers?"

"Hey – I've got little kids to take care of! No time for gardening!"

The fact is, the current members of the Audubon Park Garden Club are aging. We need young, vibrant members to work with the older, less agile current Club members. You *do not* need to live in Audubon Park – the current President of our Club lives in Highview!

Our Garden Club is part of the Garden Club of Kentucky, Dogwood District of Louisville. We were organized in 1929, are members of the National Garden Clubs, Inc, and are the Louisville Council of Federated Garden Clubs nationally. Many of you knew or have heard of our very strong early leaders, Sara Pope, Boots Little, Ethelyn Maxwell and Mrs Marjorie Davis. This spring many of us attended Marjorie's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party! Our chief of operations is Mrs Mary Miller, who is the current leader for our annual Garden Tour held on June 25<sup>th</sup>. We will also hold our annual plant sale the same day at City Hall.

The Audubon Park Garden Club needs new members with fresh looks to improve our beautiful City. Our spring Dogwood Festival broke all attendance records! Our Parks and Recreation Board has organized several family-friendly programs, including an Independence Day parade and celebration.

The only requirement to belong to the Garden Club is a love of flowers. That's it! We also need volunteers to work in the gardens in the City parks. We are also a bird sanctuary, and have several designated way-stations as part of the national program to help save the endangered Monarch butterfly.

Membership in the Audubon Park Garden Club costs just \$25 a year; \$35 per couple. We urge you to consider being part of this continuing work, to keep our City's unique beauty available for all.

## 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](http://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](http://TreeCommittee-APKY.org).
- Trash collection days in the City are being consolidated 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.

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- *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!

## STEWARDSHIP

Be on the lookout for a signup sheet posted on the Web site, and floating around town in the days to come. The "Civic Stewardship Form" invites you to consider how you might pitch in on all the great work going on in the City. There's so much skill and energy on display in this community, there are no limits to what we can achieve in making this an even better place to live. We can get a head start at pooling these resources when they're most needed, if you're willing to 'pay it forward,' by signing up in one or more areas where you might be able to help. This isn't an obligation – just a roster, to check your availability when something comes up. Please let us know if we can contact you in one or more of the many areas of activity listed, by filling out a form and dropping it off at City Hall or the Web portal provided. Your help is needed – this is what makes the whole thing work!

## 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; every other issue is delivered 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. More recently, there's a separate medium called *NextDoor Audubon Park*, which has both internal posts for our own residents, and connections to nearby neighborhoods.
- 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?