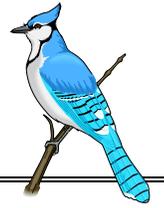




The Official Newsletter of The City of Audubon Park



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Issue 73

March 2016

MAYOR'S MUSINGS

Dorn Crawford

Spring has sprung, it seems – and, as welcome as it is, we have to begin to hope the dogwoods can hold off another month for their ‘big show’ at the Festival! The Garden Club’s usual ‘marching orders’ may have special importance this year: light your trees and shrubs *whenever they bloom*, as well as during the dates of the Festival itself.

Blossoms aside, this year’s *third weekend in April* is shaping up as the Best Festival Ever, with events and activities detailed in the flyers circulating with this newsletter, the Garden Club column below, and our other usual outlets. By further luck of the calendar, there’s no conflict this year with Thunder activities, so be sure to be on hand for:

- *Festival kickoff* on Friday evening, this year dubbed *Light Up Audubon*. Recalling last year’s *Forest Fest*, you know this is not to be missed. Great music, great food, great fellowship, and just a lot of fun, culminating in the illumination of the park trees at dusk.
- *Community Tree Planting*, Saturday at 11 AM. A demonstration event associated with Arbor Day, this activity in Henderson (aka Wren) Park will include tutorial tips and recommendations for planting and caring for trees throughout the community.
- *Band Concert*, Sunday at 3 PM, Audubon Baptist Church. The Festival concluding event, featuring commemorative remarks by local leaders, complimentary Garden Club goodies, and more great music.

Sprinkled throughout will be various displays, materials and official proclamations associated with Arbor Day, celebrating the urban forest that is Audubon Park’s most precious resource. And in the same spirit, it seems appropriate to concentrate on that topic in this issue, sparing the customary survey of as many areas of City activity as space permits.

To be sure, other pressing topics are still in play, including the annual tax-and-budget cycle, new waste management contract, uniform fiber-optic franchising, administrative and infrastructure projects, legal and regulatory work, and the beginnings of strategic planning. Let me urge you to review coverage of these topics in previous columns, ask questions, provide feedback, and look for more in the future.

But for now, let’s talk about the forest.

As we struggle through modernizing and streamlining our Code of Ordinances, provisions for the forest are performe a central topic. After a year of community discussion and debate, we’ve adopted a novel overlay ordinance, with the limited but critical objective of affirming the City’s traditional role of maintaining civic order through its Code. With this underpinning, we can ask ourselves what protection and management the forest should have in Audubon Park.

Our present Forest Code is a conglomeration of ordinances that regulate planting, pruning, damage or removal of trees in the parks and public ways, and abatement of tree hazards and nuisances everywhere else. As we review and update these provisions, questions come up on at least two levels:

- What’s the essential character of forest resources: are they the result of decorative choices on individual private properties – or community

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assets defined by their oxygenation, temperature and drainage modulation, noise and pollution dampening, and wildlife habitat?

- How much management and regulation is in order throughout, to take advantage of available knowledge and expertise, while still respecting individual preference?

We can only treat these questions seriously if we have a clear sense of what the forest means to us. We presently accept regulation of private home modifications, garages, fences, swimming pools, antennas, floodlights, and curbs. Are the trees that compose the forest less a public interest than these?

Part of the reason for these regulations is to defend community standards, and provide a way to resolve concerns, by applying all the knowledge and judgment the City can acquire in the common interest. Should we treat the engineering of the forest any less seriously than that of other property development and management?

Audubon Park has a strong libertarian tradition that deserves recognition and respect. It also has a strong sense of community and common responsibility that can sometimes compete, even clash. These impulses are not easy to resolve. But in the case of the forest, as we look around at the barrenness of neighbors like the airport and the Fairgrounds, and the travails of the greater metropolitan area, we're compelled to try and come to terms. Preserving and renewing what we have won't happen by itself.

Please use the occasion of this season to think about the forest. Enjoy the events to come, and the community spirit they embody – then consider what commitment we can make to reinforce and promote it. Then, let us hear your conclusions and ideas. We're counting on you!

**Special Feature:
THE URBAN FOREST**

In anticipation of Arbor Day and our Festival of the Dogwood, I asked two of our fiercest advocates of urban forestry to share some of their commentary with the community. While their perspectives

sometimes contrast, their underlying common goal should help build consciousness and commitment for the challenges ahead. Here, then, are two complementary themes on the City's most critical resource: the forest.

OLD GROWTH IS ESSENTIAL

Cindy Ohlman

Rainy periods are an excellent time to observe the uniqueness of our urban forest – a special environment.

On a recent early morning, 'Wren Creek' formed and again left its banks (the road). The Ash at the very corner in my yard was completely surrounded with water as the water approached the lower step. Before the rain, the drain was checked and it was clear of debris. The drain was running at capacity. Of course, after the storms pass, Wren Creek runs off and the road is passable. The soil remains intact, especially, on my corner, because of the roots of a mature Ash are there "holding it all together" without the aid of a curb. Grass does not like this area – nor do many plants – only trees and an occasional dandelion. Older trees need more water – which is a very good trait and very needed at this corner of the Park.

Today is symbolic of times when the canopies of the old and mature growth are noticeably missed. Without their canopy of leaves and filtration properties, this end of the park would be noticeably more polluted. If you have a discerning olfactory system, you can detect the pollution from the jet fuel at times, especially, in the late fall and winter, times without canopies of leaves. Of course, the rain helps to clean the air somewhat and the smells are less. The chemical compounds from the jet fuels reach the ground and are absorbed into the soil along with the rain water. Students know the basic science of osmosis, the diffusion of water, and tree roots are the experts. Filtration and purification processes at the canopy level and also at the foundational, root level. Pretty amazing when one considers these simple processes. The evergreens of the park do their part while their deciduous cousins rest in their dormant

winter state – yet there is a real difference. This difference could be measured if one had the proper equipment. We might not really want to know the amount and kinds of chemical compounds in the air we breathe ... especially at this end of the Park.

The noise and vibrational pollution can begin very early in the morning when air traffic goes north. And of course, the occasional train adds to the sounds and vibrations. The trees do absorb both the sound and physical vibrations, just as our homes do. The old growth, both evergreen and deciduous, helps absorb the many vibrations before they reach our homes. If you have had the opportunity like those at this corner, to experience the difference when the canopies of leaves are present and when they are not – there is a difference.

Please take time to observe this corner of the Park during this rainy time. Even during times of flooding, very little erosion of the soil occurs because of our old trees. Those who live in this end of the Park are well aware of the sounds and vibrations unless they are really heavy sleepers. And as the airplanes continue their paths in and out of the airport the air quality is degraded – that's just the way it is.

Our old growth Ash and other trees are needed here and they would be missed more than many realize. If they need treatment, I am prepared to help provide the money for their treatments. They are weathering the winds well, which is a sign of health. The original city planners obviously planned for tree-lined streets, and Wren Road from Audubon Parkway to Cardinal is a great example of of this environmental plan. They must have imagined the streets lined with the old growth serving us with their God-given talents – and of course their obvious beauty. During special times in the Park, visitors along with our neighbors marvel at the lanes of old growth! What better introduction to our Park than to be greeted by our beautiful old trees as people drive, cycle and walk to their destinations of the Country Club, the City Hall, or the homes of friends. Many of us, like me, moved here because of the forest of old growth. We are blessed ... are we not?

RENEWAL IS ESSENTIAL

Anne Bobigian

For the last six years, since the scourge of the Emerald Ash Borer began, the Forest Board has been involved in selecting and expanding the ash population from the Parks that we can treat successfully in the long term. We started first treatments in 2010. We now have 14 park ashes identified for long term maintenance treatment, which costs about \$300-350 per tree every two years – and the City has created, for the first time, a "Plant Health" line item in the budget, that helps ensure this long-term maintenance program. Next year is a treatment year, and over \$4000 is budgeted.

We have selectively removed ashes with major wounds and defects, and those that would be severely damaged by utility pruning because of lines, and those which would pose a true hazard, meaning within margin of the road or homes. The three ashes that were originally in Robin Park illustrate some of the problems. All three have been reviewed three times with experienced arborists (certified in plant health and treatment of EAB). The ash that was most valuable in terms of canopy was on the Robin side of the park, and completely fell apart from weak structure (related to a major prior wound) during a wind event (before possible treatment for EAB) and in the process took out two mature maples and two mature dogwoods. When mature senescent trees, like these ashes, come down in an uncontrolled manner (as the ash did across the Park), they are likely to take out remaining dogwoods, nearby old trees that may have many years to go, and extensive new replacement plantings. Ash is particularly dangerous during dying, and sheds large pieces of limbs and wood.

You should note that the Wren roadside verge of Robin Park has been replanted with a variety of species. There are now basswoods, a chestnut oak, tupelos, a London Plane (a disease resistant sycamore hybrid), Katsura, and serviceberry, and on the inner belt, just to the other side of these ashes, are blight-resistant American chestnuts. For wildlife purposes, chestnut is the greatest of our trees -- it

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has the largest "carrying capacity" in ecological terms, for birds and insects. It grows very rapidly, bears nuts within 7-10 years, and blooms beginning at 5 years. It has great wind resistance. For rapid shade, we have also planted several Tulip Poplar Trees, and Sweet gums on the Robin Road side of the Park, and were trying blight-resistant Elms (with mixed success).

We are removing damaged vulnerable hazard ashes where we must, in a careful, proactive way, to prevent harm to the plantings, to prevent risk to those using Wren Road, and to allow the replacement young trees maximum development potential. We will also be planting other ecologically important understory trees -- some replacement dogwoods, but also hazels, serviceberry, and persimmons. We hope this will maximize the benefits of the site for people and our wildlife and birds and pollinators.

Where we can, as in Curlew Park, we leave standing "snags" so we can plant climbers (Cardinal flower and native honey suckle) for hummingbirds, and leave the trunk for the woodpeckers. A dying sweet gum has just been treated this way, so the deadwood isn't hazard, but the trunk can be used by wildlife.

We have also been doing major sustainment work on healthy old trees, like the five massive pin oaks in Wren Park, which have had the first removal of deadwood, and are being cabled to improve their long-term stability. Two years ago, the Forest Board raised \$10,000 that was spent on removal of deadwood in the huge ashes in Curlew that are being treated.

Please join us this spring while we resume our inventory and plant health assessments. Selective ash removals are part of an overall strategy for park renewals -- some forced on us by major storms and tree senescence, and some by plant epidemics and pestilence. Like any living creatures, trees need both care and renewal with new generations for our urban forest to survive and thrive. We look forward to everyone's help and commitment to ensure this can happen, both for now and for generations to come.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Assistant Chief Mike Minniear

I'm sure everyone is glad that winter is over! Now for the chilly temperatures and a tad bit of rain ☺. Warmer weather translates into more crime. Many of our thefts last year were from unlocked cars with items in plain view, items left in yards, and open garages. PLEASE try to keep those garage doors shut. If you don't, then Audubon Park becomes a "Crime of Opportunity" type environment. Crime has been non-existent in Audubon Park so far this year, except for a few thefts from unlocked cars and open garages. Although Audubon Park is a very safe neighborhood and a great place to live, it is not too far from other neighborhoods that have much more crime. Our success is due in large part to the citizens of Audubon Park calling the police when they see suspicious people in the neighborhood, and patrols by Audubon Park Police. Always remember if you see something suspicious call the police!!! Until next newsletter, everyone take care and always remember to buckle up – it could save your life.

AUDUBON PARK GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Joanne Bader

Audubon Park Open House –Welcoming Neighbors on March 28th

For the second year, the Garden Club is joining forces with City government officials to sponsor an open house where residents can 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 40 people at last year's inaugural event and most found the evening fun and informative. The open house will be at City Hall, 3340 Robin Road, from 7 – 8:30 pm; refreshments will be provided. Hope to see many of you there!

Festival of the Dogwood

The Garden Club's celebration of the Festival of the Dogwood will be held Friday, April 15-Sunday, April 17th. The festival weekend kicks off with Light Up Audubon, coordinated by the Parks and Rec Board,

which will be held on Friday evening in Henderson Park between 5-9 pm. It features music by Appalatin, the Arbor Day proclamation and lighting of the dogwood trees. The annual closing concert will continue on Sunday, April 17th at Audubon Park Baptist Church, 1046 Hess Lane, beginning at 3 pm. This free concert, by the River Cities Concert Band, features patriotic as well as light classical music and show tunes, and is sponsored by residents Louis and Carol Korb. Refreshments will be served.

The Garden Club hopes that we can encourage more residents to light up their trees, homes or other flowering plants or shrubs whenever they bloom – but at least from Thursday night through Sunday. Please remove any yard signs so that visitors experience the *natural* beauty of the park! And remember, don't wait till the last minute to purchase spotlights as these are often sold out just prior to the Festival.

Brightside Clean Up at Preston Entrance – April 16th

The Spring Brightside Cleanup at the Preston entrance is scheduled for 9 am on Saturday, April 16th. Bring your brooms, rakes, and other gardening tools – garbage bags, garden gloves and t-shirts will be provided! Any and all are welcome to help beautify Audubon Park in time for the Festival of the Dogwood, kids included!

Seventeen bags of trash, weeds, and leaves were collected during the fall cleanup last October. Thanks to the eight hardy souls who came out on a cool and damp morning. Your work was much appreciated!!

Brightside is offering a Premium Compost Sale from 9am-12 noon on Saturdays, March 28th and April 30th, at the Outer Loop Recycling facility at 2673 Outer Loop. Cost is \$2.50/bag or \$40/1 cubic meter scoop.

Christmas Community Celebration

The Garden Club welcomed nearly 75 residents to its annual Christmas Community Celebration at City Hall on December 13th – with many new families attending for the first time! The \$100 door prize winners were Kristopher and Brittany Gorter (Robin Rd); Mark Stevens (Oriole Ct) won the \$50 prize.

The Garden Club would like to thank the many residents who help decorate the lampposts along Audubon's streets; the beautifully decorated lampposts add to the festive atmosphere and definitely help everyone get in the holiday spirit.

Audubon Park Loses Long Time Residents and Garden Club Members – Edith Owen and Natalie Scharre

The Garden Club would like to express its sympathy to the families of Edith Owen and Natalie Scharre, longtime members of the Audubon Park Garden Club. Both will be fondly remembered as avid gardeners and involved residents who did much to improve the quality of life in Audubon Park through their many hours of volunteerism. They will both be missed!

Save the Date – Audubon Park Garden Tour on June 25th

Audubon Park is holding its 15th Annual Garden Tour on Saturday, June 25th, from 10 am – 4 pm. Tickets are available the day of the event at City Hall and cost \$15. The Garden Club plans to hold a plant sale during the event. If you are working in your garden this spring and have extra plants or divided plants you would like to donate for the sale, please contact Gene Stotz at 634-4921.

Gift Ideas for the Gardener

The Garden Club is selling Palm-flex garden gloves for \$6/pair – a wonderful gift for your favorite gardener! They also offer a Soil Knife, which is a stainless steel tool that can be used for cutting plants or small branches as well as used in weeding or digging. Both items can be purchased from Club Member Gene Stotz. Please call him at 634-4921 regarding purchase and pickup of either item.

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:

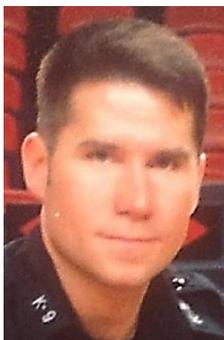
Monday, April 11, 2016: "Earth Boxes – A New Way to Garden" with guest speaker and Club member Grace Worful.

Tuesday, May 10, 2016: "Bonzai – An Ancient Technique for Today" with guest speaker Russ Stevens of the Louisville Bonzai Society. 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's the latest you should meet:



Tim Snook
Police Officer

Tim was born and raised in New Albany, Indiana. After graduating New Albany High School in 1989, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, serving as an infantry rifleman. A year and a half into his enlistment, Tim was selected to serve on the guard detail for the President of the United States, providing physical security at Camp David, the presidential retreat in northern Maryland.

After being honorably discharged in 1993, Tim was hired by the Louisville Police Department. Tim began his career in law enforcement in September of 1993, and served as a patrolman assigned to the 3rd District riding a beat in the South Louisville neighborhoods. Tim served as a member of the Louisville Police S.W.A.T. team for six years. He

was assigned to the K-9 unit in 2001, serving as a K-9 handler and assistant trainer. After receiving his KLEC instructor's certification, he was appointed head trainer and oversaw patrol dog training and certification for the unit for five years. He retired with 22 years of service in January of 2016.

Tim has been married to Angie, a 19-year veteran Louisville police detective, for 13 years, and has two daughters, ages 10 and 6.

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.

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!

- 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*.
- Trash collection days in the City are Tuesdays and Fridays (with occasional exceptions for holidays). Recycling is collected on Tuesday, and yard waste on Friday. Garbage is picked up from behind your house both days, while yard waste and recycling items are to be placed at the curb. Be sure to report any missed collection to City Hall.

STEWARDSHIP

Be on the lookout for one additional handout coming with this newsletter, 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, 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?