



# The Official Newsletter of The City of Audubon Park



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## MAYOR'S MUSINGS

Dorn Crawford

Spring has sprung, it seems – though in such fits and starts, and with so many early flowers and trees already out, it's hard to know when the dogwood blossoms may appear for their 'big show!' Because of that, and several other calendar complications of this year's busy season, events associated with our signature Festival of the Dogwood have been extended to a span of two weeks, before and after Easter. This is both a gamble (on the weather) and an experiment (on the agenda), to see how much fun, fellowship and illumination we can pack into this landmark event. The Garden Club's usual 'marching orders' still apply: light your trees and shrubs *whenever they bloom*, as well as during the extended dates of the Festival itself.

From the agenda, this year's 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. Another advantage of the extended schedule is the flexibility to avoid many (though probably not all!) of the potential conflicts with Derby Festival and other community events beginning to crowd the calendar – so be sure to be on hand for:

- *Festival kickoff* on Saturday, April 8, 4 PM, this year again dubbed *Light Up Audubon*. Recalling last year's blast by the same name, and the *Forest Fest* before that, 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 dogwood trees at dusk.

- *Arbor Day Community Tree Planting*, Saturday, April 15, 9:30 AM. A demonstration event associated with our Tree City USA standing, this activity in Robin Park will include tutorial tips and recommendations for planting and caring for trees throughout the community. Bring the kids for a unique nature experience – and then stay for:
- *Easter Egg Hunt*, Saturday, April 15, 10 AM. Reprising last year's popular first outing, this gathering for the kids features lots of mock eggs holding small candies and toys spread around Robin Park to find, an enclosed area for supervised hunting by the smallest, and coffee and donuts for the rest of us.
- *Band Concert*, Sunday, April 23, 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, as we did this time last year, sparing the usual survey of other areas of City activity for the moment.

To be sure, other pressing topics are still in play, including the annual tax-and-budget cycle, waste management program, community events, administrative and infrastructure projects, legal and regulatory work, and the beginnings of strategic planning. Please review coverage of these topics in

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previous columns, ask questions, provide feedback, and look for their return in the future.

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

As we continue to struggle with modernizing and streamlining our Code of Ordinances, provisions for the forest have to be a central topic. After detailed community discussion and debate, we adopted a novel overlay ordinance last year, with the limited but crucial objective of affirming the City's key role of maintaining civic order through its Code. With this commitment, we can ask ourselves what protection and oversight the forest should have in Audubon Park.

Our present Forest Code is a conglomeration of ordinances that cover 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, the key questions come up on at least two levels:

- ★ What's the core character of our forest resources: are they *decorative choices* on individual private properties – or are they *community assets* critical for their oxygen output, temperature and drainage impact, noise and pollution reduction, and wildlife habitat?
- ★ How much forest management and regulation are in order throughout, to take advantage of available knowledge and expertise, while still respecting individual preferences?

We can only treat these questions seriously if we have a clear sense of what the forest means to us. We accept regulation of private building modifications, fences, swimming pools, antennas, floodlights, and curbs. Are the trees that compose our 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 conflict. *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 decline of the canopy in 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!

## FOREST BOARD NEWS

*Leah Netherland*

This spring, Forest Board members will be identifying and marking Ash trees on several streets in our neighborhood. When you see a green ribbon on a tree this indicates it is an Ash tree whose longevity is limited. It will probably succumb to the Emerald Ash Borer and die within the next 5-10 years. Imagine that all of these trees are suddenly gone leaving multiple bare spots in our tree canopy.

The Forest Board is dedicated to maintaining the tree canopy in Audubon Park. Contact us for information on how you can help maintain this valuable resource.

## SPRING PUBLIC SAFETY TIPS

*Chief Dooug Sweeney*

Spring is upon us! And as we have already seen (in fits and starts!), so is nicer weather! It feels great to be able to be outdoors more – but crooks feel the same way! Please be vigilant, and keep these tips in mind:

- 1) *Lock your front door* when you are working or relaxing in the back yard and conversely when relaxing on the front porch.

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- 2) *Lighting is a great way to protect your property*, since bad guys don't want to be seen in the act of committing a crime. Call police if you see suspicious activities or people who may be up to no good. We are happy to check on them and you can be saving someone from being a crime victim.
  - 3) *Make sure that your home has the address numbers clearly visible* on your home and even on the steps in front of your house so that officers or firemen can see in case of an emergency.
  - 4) *Use locks for yard gates* which will limit easy access to your property and contents such as lawn furniture and barbecue grills.
  - 5) *WATCH FOR CHILDREN PLAYING!* The great weather means more kids will be outside!
  - 6) *If you do outdoor activity, do so in well-traveled areas* where you can get help if needed. If you walk or run, do it with a partner(s) when possible, especially when dark, and have a plan in case an emergency arises or you encounter a situation like a dog running at large (Expect the unexpected).
  - 7) *Avoid door to door solicitors*, especially concrete or roof repairmen. And never pay anyone for work before repairs are made. Your city ordinances prohibit soliciting. If anyone is soliciting, contact your on-duty police officer by calling 574-5471. *An exception to solicitation laws are religious groups*, such as Jehovah's Witnesses. Their right to knock on your door is protected by a Supreme Court ruling. But, you do not have to speak to them. If you don't wish to,
  - 8) politely let them know you are not interested. They are generally kind and harmless; they are interested in selling nothing else other than salvation. ☺
  - 9) *Never allow people into your house to use your phone*. Call for them if you are inclined to do so, or offer to call police and we will help them.
  - 10) *Close and lock garage doors* when you are not using them; an unlocked or open garage door invites thieves to your bicycles, lawn equipment or tools.
  - 11) *When riding your bicycle day or night, make sure that your clothes don't blend into the environment*. "Be Seen" and make sure that drivers and pedestrians can see you. Always have reflective equipment and lighting on yours and your child's bicycles.
  - 12) *Do not leave your valuables in your car in plain sight* as people pass by this invites crime, and always lock your car doors even when driving.
  - 13) *Never, ever leave children or pets inside a car*. An 80-degree day can quickly produce temperatures of 120 degrees or more inside a vehicle, even when parked in the shade or with windows partially open.
  - 14) *While on vacation, make sure that you stop mail delivery*, and ask a neighbor to remove any flyers, newspapers, and other items that might accumulate while you are away. Use timers to turn lights on and off, and set radios to turn on at various times. Leave a contact number with a neighbor so that you can be reached in case of an emergency.
  - 15) *When the weather gets warm, check on older and isolated neighbors*.
  - 16) *Always travel on well lit, well populated streets*. Always travel in groups. Remain alert to your surroundings. Never wear headphones while walking or jogging.
  - 17) *Enjoy the beautiful weather, and be safe!*

<i>Be Safe While Walking, Biking or Running</i>
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<p>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!</p>
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## **LITTLE FREE LIBRARY**

*Amanda Thompson*

Most of you have probably already seen the Little Free Library on Wren Road. We encourage anyone and everyone to stop by and peruse the selection of books for adults and children alike. Please feel free to take a book to read or leave a book to share. You never know what you may find! Please make a point to walk by on sunny Sundays for my favorite, Magazine Sunday. Look for the little basket just below the library. If you have any questions, suggestions or comments, feel free to call Amanda Thompson, (502) 931-0790 or [amt924@hotmail.com](mailto:amt924@hotmail.com), or just stop by and knock on the back door!

## **AUDUBON PARK GARDEN CLUB NEWS**

*Joanne Bader*

### *Festival of the Dogwood*

The Garden Club's celebration of the Festival of the Dogwood is culminating a little later this year, in consideration of the Easter holiday on April 16<sup>th</sup>. The annual closing concert will be held on Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 and the Audubon Park Garden Club. Refreshments will be served.

The Parks and Recreation Board has again organized the kickoff for the Dogwood Festival with the "*Light Up Audubon!*" celebration in Henderson Park. This year the event will be held on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, to reduce conflicts with other events scheduled throughout Louisville – and to extend our great experience! Based on the unusually warm winter we have experienced, the dogwoods may actually be blooming then. Flyers for both events are being distributed to all resident homes with this newsletter.

During this Festival period there will also be announcements and proclamations marking Arbor Day, and Audubon Park's Tree City USA status, as well as the Easter season. In particular, join us on Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, Easter Eve, for a commemorative

*tree planting* in Robin Park at 9:30 am (or as soon as you can get there after the Brightside cleanup, see below) – followed by our Second Annual *Easter Egg Hunt* at 10 am.

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 for the duration of the Festival. Please remove any yard signs so that visitors experience the *natural* beauty of the Park! And remember, don't wait 'til the last minute to purchase spotlights, as these are often sold out just prior to the Festival.

### *Brightside Clean Up at Preston Entrance – April 15th*

The Spring Brightside Cleanup at the Preston entrance is scheduled for 9 am on Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. 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 during the Festival of the Dogwood!

We hope to collect more than the 10 bags of trash, weeds, and leaves that were collected during the fall cleanup last October, when efforts were hampered by construction work at the Preston entrance. If you have questions about the cleanup, please contact Cathy Lally at 773-0780.

### *Save the Date – Audubon Park Garden Tour on June 24<sup>th</sup>*

Audubon Park is holding its 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Tour on Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup> from 10 am – 4 pm. Tickets are available the day of the event at City Hall. The Garden Club plans to hold a plant sale during the event. If you are working out 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. It is still too early to know how many gardens (and which ones) will be on the tour, but additional information should be available in the June newsletter and on the City's Web site.

### *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

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held at Audubon Park City Hall, 3340 Robin Road, beginning at 1 pm (unless otherwise noted). Upcoming programs for the rest of the year until the summer hiatus include:

*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. We've been very fortunate in the willingness of skilled and motivated to step up for the City. Here are the latest you should meet:



**Amanda Thompson**  
*Councilor*

My name is Amanda Thompson. My family and I have lived in Audubon Park since 2004 at the corner of Wren and Audubon Parkway. My husband Doug and I have three daughters, Rosalind, Vivian and Willa who attend St. Stephen Martyr

School. I work as a litigation paralegal at Middleton Reutlinger. I love living in Audubon Park and enjoy the peace, tranquility and sense of community that our neighborhood offers! If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions about issues in our Audubon Park, please call me (502) 931-0790 or email me at [amt924@hotmail.com](mailto:amt924@hotmail.com).



**Tim Snook**  
*Police Officer*

Who should look familiar! A New Albany native, Tim is a Marine Corps veteran with assignments including the U.S. Presidential service detail at Camp David. He joined us a year ago after a distinguished 22-year career with the Louisville and Metro Police, including tours with the S.W.A.T. team and the K-9 unit.

He was briefly lured back to LMPD in its recent effort to recover some of its experience base by hiring its best retired officers back at a premium. But he's wisely decided we're the better gig, so we're glad to have him back!

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](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,

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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 Forest Board's archive 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 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?

