



The Official Newsletter of The City of Audubon Park



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MAYOR SCALISE'S MESSAGE

Did You Know...

There has been a strong demand for more information about Audubon Park and how it is managed. In response, we will try to address questions and concerns in the upcoming Newsletters.

- Audubon Park employs only six full-time Officers at the present time. All others are either part-time, in training, or in Code Enforcement. Audubon Park is authorized to have up to 14 Officers.
- The 6 full-time Officers may receive a take-home car and up to \$500 per month for gas. These Officers are paid \$12 per hour and are given \$330 per month for health insurance (which they must seek out and purchase on their own).
- Part-time Officers are paid \$11 per hour and receive no benefits or a take-home car. If they choose, they may receive a take-home car; but in return, they do not receive hourly pay.
- Audubon Park currently has a contract to patrol Parkway Village for full Police coverage for \$55,000 per year. The Police also have a contract with Audubon Hospital and are paid a monthly fee for this coverage.
- The Audubon Park Police also receive Federal overtime funds to patrol the Preston Highway and Poplar Level corridors (\$12,000 per year for gas, overtime, and equipment). This allows the City to provide better coverage for the area and allows for overtime and added patrols.
- Audubon Park is mandated to provide 24/7 coverage by Police. Audubon Park tries to have at least two Officers on duty per shift. In the event of an accident or apprehension of a criminal, one of the Officers is required to remain with that individual until a formal statement or booking has been completed. If only one Officer was available per shift, this would leave the City unprotected and liable for failure to protect as mandated by law. Louisville Metro provides only secondary coverage of Audubon Park.
- Audubon Park's Police Department is one of 64 accredited Police Departments out of 440 in Kentucky. This accreditation means that the department has received and met all standards; and in addition, this also lowers the City's liability insurance by 20% (a \$17,000 annual savings to the City).

"Provided as a service to our neighbors"

OTHER ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Audubon Park and the Police Department are audited annually by the Kentucky League of Cities. Our City is one of only two in the Commonwealth of Kentucky to get a 100% certification in its Audit.
- Many have commented on the number of Police cars up near City Hall. The majority of these cars have over 200,000 miles on them; and they are kept as backup vehicles. The Command Post bus parked next to the City Hall garages was donated to the City and is valued at \$130,000. This Command Post vehicle is available in the event of an emergency and allows the City to function if City Hall and the Police Department were damaged by some natural disaster.
- Audubon Park Police Officers have countywide jurisdiction by statute to come to the aid of citizens anywhere (and arrest if necessary) as are all Police Officers in the Commonwealth; therefore, their cars may be found anywhere in the metro area (with their primary patrol area being Audubon Park and its surrounding areas).
- In the event that residents need Police assistance after normal work hours or on weekends, please call the Sheriff's Office at 574-5471 and ask the Dispatcher to contact the Audubon Park Police.
- The Chief of Police is paid only one salary even though he assists in the day-to-day management of the City in the absence of the Mayor.
- The City of Audubon Park has approximately 1600 residents.
- Newsletters are now available quarterly on the City's webpage and are delivered to all residential homes twice per year. The average cost of the home-delivered Newsletters is \$400 each time they are delivered.
- The City's website is being updated for free by Mayor Scalise's daughter as noted at the March 2011 City Council Meeting. She is a web designer by profession, and the City is fortunate to have this service provided by a professional and at no cost.
- Interest has been expressed in having a Farmer's Market or other City-wide events such as a 4th of July parade or an Easter egg hunt. While many such ideas may have merit, any event such as these being held within City boundaries and making it open to the entire community implies sponsorship by the City of Audubon Park. With today's litigious society, the City would be potentially liable if anyone was hurt during one of these events. Audubon Park does not have the financial reserves to pay for a lawsuit; thus, liability insurance is required to indemnify the City *each* time such an event is held. Groups such as the Garden Club are required to provide insurance for their City-wide events like the Dogwood Festival and the Arts and Crafts Festival. While the proposed ideas listed earlier are appealing, the City cannot afford the financial liability to sponsor and/or purchase insurance for them under the current tax structure.

Farmer's Market Update:

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We have tentatively found a location for the Farmer's Market just outside the City limits; however, we are still looking for a volunteer to handle the duties of managing the project. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Mayor Scalise.

AUDUBON PARK GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Joanne Bader

Festival of the Dogwood – Drowned But Not Out!

This year's opening ceremony for the 40th annual Festival of the Dogwood fell victim to the recent heavy rains causing it to be moved to the Fourth Presbyterian Church on Preston Highway instead of Wren Park. While the move may have cut down on attendance at the opening ceremonies, it did not dim the stunning beauty of the Dogwoods in the park. There were several visitors during the weekend that dodged intermittent rain showers to stroll or drive through the park. Natalie Scharre, a longtime Garden Club member, was still able to "light" the Dogwoods in Wren Park through the miracles of modern technology (and helpful Audubon Park Public Works staff...). Those who attended the ceremony at the church enjoyed wonderful music by the Rascals of Ragtime which were graciously sponsored by Metro Councilman Jim King. A great crowd showed up Sunday afternoon for the annual concert by the River Cities Concert Band at Audubon Baptist Church. Many thanks go to Carol and Louis Korb for sponsoring that concert!

The Garden Club would like to thank all park residents for lighting up their trees and flowers during the festival. We were blessed that nature cooperated by having the Dogwoods and Azaleas at their peak during that weekend! We also would like to thank the Audubon Park Police for their help with the festival and especially the Public Works staffers (Jason Payne and Austin Poppe) for their help in setting up in Wren Park and at the church. Maybe next year, we can get all the stars to align and have stunning weather as well as stunning trees during the festival weekend....

Audubon Park Garden Tour

Plans for the upcoming 10th annual Audubon Park Garden Tour are still being finalized as this goes to press. Many residents have been unable to do much in the garden due to all of the recent rains much less plant flowers; so, it remains to be seen which gardens will be in shape and ready to show in June. The tour is scheduled (rain or shine) for Saturday, June 25th, from 10 A.M. – 4 P.M. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased at City Hall. Since many sites are still to be determined, look for the shepherd's crooks with flower-filled watering cans to mark the gardens to be on the tour; however, the new memorial "rain garden" in Curlew Park *will* be on the tour.

Please come support the Garden Club by visiting the gardens on tour and bring your friends!

Garden Club Officers

The Garden Club would like to thank outgoing Club President, Betty Weise, for presiding over the Club for the past four years. Betty is being succeeded by Gene Stotz as Club President; and the other officers remain in place for the coming year: Margaret Tanguay – First Vice President, Mary Miller – Second Vice President, Betsy Maxwell – Recording Secretary, Nancy Zinner – Corresponding Secretary, and Janet Shumate – Treasurer. All of these officers do a fantastic job in keeping the Garden Club functioning smoothly, and their efforts are greatly appreciated!

Arts and Crafts Festival – September 17th-18th

It isn't too early to mark your calendars for the Annual Arts and Crafts Festival (held every year during the third weekend of September). Initial reports from vendors hoping to exhibit at the festival indicate that this year's festival will be bigger and better than ever! Please don't forget to remember the Audubon Shop when you are cleaning out your basement, attic, closets, or garage over the summer. The Shop is always looking for new or used items in good condition such as books, household items, games, toys, sporting equipment, dishes, jewelry, etc. Please contact Leah Netherland at 638-8919 if you have items to donate. All proceeds from the Audubon Shop benefit the Garden Club which, in turn, returns the profits to projects benefiting Audubon Park. These projects include helping fund

the community flower beds or park fertilization. More information about the Arts and Crafts Festival will be sent out in August prior to the event.

The African Violet

The African Violet, also known by its botanical name *Saintpaulia*, is a common flower found in the home and is much loved for its simple beauty. The flower originally was found in the tropical rainforests of northern Tanzania, and they retain their need for warmth and high humidity to flourish. The flower was discovered in 1892 by Baron Saint Paul, a German Diplomat, who sent a specimen to his father who was a noted Horticulturist in Germany.

The African Violet has become a well-loved houseplant because it is easy to grow if given the proper conditions (a well-shaded location out of direct sunlight yet with bright, indirect light). African violets like humidity but do not like overwatering or water on their leaves. In fact, once watered (preferably through the bottom of the pot), the plant should be allowed to dry out before re-watering. They like to be moist but not wet. The plants also prefer fairly constant temperatures of typically 70-75 degrees during the day and no less than 60 degrees at night. Flowers can easily be propagated by rooting a single leaf in African Violet potting mix or in peat moss-based potting soil (light and uncompacted). These plants also benefit from fertilization two to three times per year, and there are special fertilizers for the African Violet.

Although many think of the African Violet as purple, it also comes in other colors such as pink, mauve, white, blue, or bicolor and can have either single or double flowers.

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

- There is no parking permitted on the street or on parking pads between 2 A.M. and 6 A.M. There is also no parking permitted on the grass. Please inform guests to your home of this important information. As always, please watch your speed and be on the lookout for walkers and joggers. Night and early morning joggers and walkers are encouraged to wear light or reflective clothing.

- Building, Tree, and Yard Sale permits are issued through City Hall. If you have a project in mind, a tree you would like to trim or remove on the easement, or if you would just like to have a yard sale, please call or come by City Hall for more information on obtaining a permit.
- Please report any street lights that are out or malfunctioning to City Hall at 637-5066. The information provided will then be forwarded on to LG&E for repair.
- **With regards to pets, please keep in mind that your neighbors do NOT want your pets wandering in their yard or on the roadway in front of their houses leaving unpleasant surprises or attacking the pets they may have. Please pick up after your pets and make sure they are under control at all times and are not running around loose. We have also received complaints at City Hall of barking dogs and of cats on the prowl. Please try to keep your pets from disturbing your neighbors or the bird population in the area.**
- In keeping with the beauty of the neighborhood, please try to avoid having yard signs placed on your property. Please keep in mind that if a yard sign is placed on the easement, it will be removed by the City.
- Please do not park your vehicle alongside another vehicle on the roadway. In doing this, it makes it dangerous for others to try to get through.
- Please discourage children and others from climbing in trees in the various City parks due to safety issues and damage possibilities.
- In relation to garbage collection, the collection days in the City are Tuesdays and Fridays. The yard waste and recycling are on Tuesdays only and are to be placed at the curb. **Please keep in mind yard waste must be bundled and not to exceed 48 inches in length.** Household garbage is collected at the rear of the house. Yard waste and recycling should **NOT** be placed at the street earlier than the evening before collection. We have had several complaints of residents leaving garbage containers out at the street. Please make sure

containers are stored in their proper place near your home. If you have had problems with containers being placed back where they came from, please contact Waste Management.

Please see the following holiday schedule:

For July 4th week and Labor Day week (September 5, 2011), all collections will be one day later during the week of that particular holiday.

If your garbage is missed, please contact Waste Management at 966-0117.