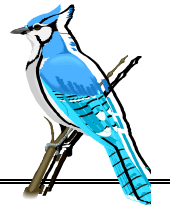



The Official Newsletter of The City of Audubon Park



Dorn Crawford, Mayor
Janette Mercer, City Clerk
City Hall: 3340 Robin Road
637-5066
www.AudubonParkKY.org
 Audubon Park Residents



City Council:

Joanne Bader
Cary Campbell
Bill Klump
Vince Osbourn
Mark Stevens
Nancy Zinner

Issue 68

December 2014

MAYOR'S MUSINGS

Dorn Crawford

Well, folks, by any reckoning, it's been quite a year. Your City government, which at one point in late 2013 could count only a public works guy and a couple of police officers among those who'd been here more than a few months, has fleshed out and settled down considerably. Your City Council, itself in office only a year by then, furnished the glue to make reconstitution and regeneration possible. Now, while a great deal remains to be done, it seems safe to say we're securely on our way.

City Executives and Staff. A new Mayor joined a new City Clerk in November, and other key fills came in the months that followed, including a new Police Chief, City Attorney, Engineer, building inspector, and a full complement of police officers. The police force was reordered and streamlined around a cadre of experienced part-time officers already vested with employee benefits from previous assignments. Staff policies and procedures continue to evolve around a strong service ethic, personal responsibility and close community relations.

One continuing challenge has been finding a stable way to conduct the City's bookkeeping. A professional accounting firm handling the entire function remotely on contract lacked necessary oversight and control. A part-time arrangement in-house looked promising, but couldn't be sustained on a volunteer basis. With several major changes in fiscal policy still to implement in the new fiscal year, a consulting firm was engaged to manage the transition and keep books in the short term. This outsourcing deal has again been difficult, and the City is seeking

to return to an in-house, part-time bookkeeper when a suitable candidate can be found. Know anybody?

Other City Officials. Most of the City's board appointments had expired or were vacant; over the year the ranks of the Code Enforcement, Ethics and Forest Boards have been filled and prescribed staggered terms reinstated, and a new Parks and Recreation Board has been formed and members appointed (see below). Vacancies will continue to come up in these important positions, of course, so please be alert to announcements inviting you to pitch in.

Civic Action. Citizens' willingness to step up informally when things need doing has proven an inspiration. Participation keeps increasing in Park Beautification Days, Brightside entrance cleanups, spontaneous trash patrols and drain clearance, Garden Club planting and caring, Christmas decoration of public places, and of course the inimitable Elves who magically appear whenever mass mailings or hand distribution of essential community information are needed. If you're looking for that special something defining the spirit of Audubon Park, look no further.

Budget. A large volume of City government's work this year has focused on restoring our financial health. As reported in last year's annual audit, the City ended fiscal year 2013 with a cash deficit of some \$338,000. This year's audit, recently released in draft, takes the figure from there to end FY 2014 at \$48,500. The biggest factors here are the liquidation of the sanitation overcharge; discontinuation of illegal pension payments; and finally taking out a line of credit, since paid off. But

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the staff and City Council, and in particular still deserve enormous credit for superhuman penny-pinching and forbearance to make this result possible. And as you read this, the City is now solvent.

Legal matters. The City's spirit has been tested several times this year, either by legal action or threat, challenging its authority to govern, and thus its viability as a civic unit. Cases involving building codes, drainage regulation, nuisance abatement and pension policy have unfortunately had to coexist with older and more troubling cases of employee discrimination, whistleblower retaliation, police mistreatment and tax/fee policy. It's ironic that the older cases, generally just involving money damages, are handled largely by our insurer, while the more recent cases of principle we must defend on our own, at least until we prevail. But our fortitude is at stake. Perseverance and focus will remain the keys to preserving the integrity and character of our City.

Recodification. This critical project, updating our Code of Ordinances to incorporate newer laws, eliminate inconsistencies, and conform to changes in state and Federal law, is well along this year, thanks to Council efforts to secure state grant support, and devote reinforcing City Attorney oversight, to generate a credible product. An initial draft administrative review is in our Attorney's hands for screening, while a separate contracted legal review is also under way. Final results will also depend heavily, of course, on the results of the legal matters outlined above.

Records and Archives. Closely related to getting the City's ordinances in order is getting its records in order - out of uncatalogued folders in unnumbered boxes, and into a state-prescribed file structure in secure containers. On-site and off-, paper and electronic, the whole must provide a clear, complete, searchable and retrievable archive of the City's business. Because of the magnitude and indefinite duration of the effort, a new City official, the Archivist, is proposed to implement and oversee the effort to put together the necessary manpower, equipment and regulatory effort to undertake this work, at minimal expense.

Infrastructure. City Hall has many neglected areas of upkeep that could fill some of the above needs - filing equipment, and security for it, are just the most obvious, and these should be available through government disposal programs. But even more pressing are the computer resources to conduct business and compile records - resources that are dangerously outdated, insecure, and not replaceable from disposed stock. A contract is now let to replace key components of hardware and software so our system is more secure, productive, and ready for a coherent recordkeeping system.

Roads. Like the internal systems in City Hall, the roads define the network that connects the City, and had been in an equal state of neglect. The repairs and replacement undertaken this year used all the resources available to shore things up without taking on massive new debt. New revenue coming over time from state aid or internal resources can now be devoted to new needs as they arise.

Waste Management. Several ups and downs have occurred in the first 2 years of a 3-year contract with Waste Management, Inc, including one entire missed pickup last winter; excess charges from failing to update the bill from the previous contract; failure to pick up selected waste in accordance with the contract; an incident of theft from a resident by an employee; and no implementing guidance on revised Metro yard waste policy. Company executives have engaged with City Hall to discuss these issues, and have sent a message about the most recent incidents posted later in this newsletter - but have taken no overt steps to correct them, a problem, given that we're paying nearly \$15,000 a month for these services. We should start a new community dialogue soon to see what changes may be in order in our next contract, in both size and scope.

Reforestation. The Forest Board has done phenomenal planting and maintenance to restore our urban canopy, and help counter the effects of nearby barren areas like the Fairgrounds and the airport. It's an inspiration to watch their work, and a privilege to pitch in when they call for help. Some City revenue has been made available this year to support the Board's work, and has helped pay for major projects

like cabling and pruning of older trees in the parks. In addition to age and urban environment, the emerald ash borer has joined other insect and disease threats to complicate the Board's work, so they deserve special thanks and support for their steely determination to restore and sustain this defining feature of the Audubon Park landscape.

Parks Development. Because our small parks are public spaces, in addition to maintaining their natural beauty, it's important they attract people, especially our children, with facilities they want to use. Some members of the Forest Board have begun a 'playscapes' initiative to plan fun things that blend smoothly into a natural environment: tire swings, log hops, treehouses, underbrush fortresses, etc. They'll be working closely with the new Parks & Rec Board to identify suitable locations and facilities for the new generation.

Community Activities. The "Rec" aspect of the new board will be charged with pulling together the array of neighborhood fellowship activities that have been either discussed or conducted over this past year by various groups and individuals, providing a City government resource for planning, communicating, supporting and documenting. There have been obvious successes with the Dogwood Festival, Arbor Day plantings, Memorial Day flag ceremony, Independence Day parade, summer block party on Dove, Veterans Day Reveille, and Community Christmas; other prospects discussed have included movie nights, concerts, farmer's market, 5- or 10K run event, and similar prospects. This board will need all the help it can get!

In short, once again, it's been quite a year. It's been an honor to be part of it, and I look forward to more excitement ahead in the renaissance of our precious community. See you around The Park!

AUDUBON PARK GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Joanne Bader

Community Christmas - Sunday, December 14th

This year's Community Christmas Celebration was held on Sunday, December 14th at City Hall from 6-8

pm. Neighbors and friends joined for this annual event, sponsored by the Garden Club, that ushers in the holiday season and focuses on fellowship and community spirit! There were refreshments including hot cider, coffee and delicious holiday cookies! Chuck Pfeifer and Mark Stevens won cash door prizes. Other smaller door prizes were awarded between 6 and 8 pm on the half-hours. Thanks to chair Anita Garrison, and Carolyn Dawson, Cathy Lally, and Diane Osborne for all their work.

Residents are also asked to decorate your doorways and homes at this time to ensure that Audubon Park looks its best for the many visitors who enjoy driving through our city during the holiday season to see the beautifully decorated homes in our historic neighborhood.

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

Many Hands Made Light Work for Brightside Cleanup of Entrance to Audubon Park

The Garden Club sponsored a neighborhood cleanup along Preston Highway in conjunction with Brightside on Saturday, October 25th. Coordinated by Garden Club member Cathy Lally, approximately 15 volunteers turned out on a cool but clear morning to pick up trash near the Preston entrance to Audubon Park. The group included two parent/child pairs: Cary Campbell and son Patrick and Jimmy Smith and daughter Reese. How awesome these two great dads introduced their kids to the value of volunteerism at a young age! (Plus rumor has it they had fun picking up trash!) 13 bags of garbage were collected by the intrepid volunteers between the railroad overpass and Hess Lane on both sides of Preston. Audubon Park owes a great big "thank you" to these helpers!

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Another Brightside cleanup will be scheduled in late April 2015.

Festival of the Dogwood

Although it's still several months away, please mark your calendars for the upcoming Festival of the Dogwood which will be held during the weekend of April 17-19, 2015.

The Garden Club hopes that we can encourage more residents to light up their trees, homes or other flowering plants or shrubs next year – and remember, don't wait 'til the last minute to purchase spotlights, as these are often sold out just prior to the festival, held traditionally during the third week of April! More information will be provided about the festival in the spring newsletter in March.

Welcoming Neighbors in Audubon Park – March 9th

The Garden Club is experimenting with a new format in its program series. The Club plans to host a meeting with the working title, "*Welcoming Neighbors – Let Us Introduce Ourselves.*" This event, held Monday, March 9th at 7 pm at City Hall, will be an opportunity for residents to meet members of the Garden Club, Forest Board and other City officials to learn about how each group works to improve the quality of life in Audubon Park. These organizations welcome more participation, so this is a wonderful opportunity to get more information about their goals and activities and to ask questions – and dessert will be provided! We hope to see a lot of residents!

Upcoming Garden Club Programs

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

Monday, January 12, 2015: "Favorite Birds" with guest speaker and Garden Club member Betsy Maxwell.

Monday, February 9, 2015: "Spring Wildflowers and Where to Find Them" with guest speaker Jacquelyn McGrail, a Master Gardener, Landscape Design

Consultant, and Past President of The Rambler Garden Club. This program is held during the annual winter pot-luck luncheon to be held at Audubon Baptist Church, 1046 Hess Lane at 11:00 am. There is no charge to attend the luncheon, but reservations should be made by calling Cheryl Westbay at 634-1239.

Monday, March 9, 2015: "Welcoming Neighbors – Let Us Introduce Ourselves" with representatives from the Audubon Park Garden Club, Audubon Park Forest Board and Audubon Park City Government. This community meeting will feature dessert and presentations and begins at 7 pm at City Hall.

Monday, April 13, 2015: "New Ideas for Spring Containers" with guest speaker, Jeff Wallitsch of Wallitsch Nursery and Garden Center.

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 Club President, Gene Stotz, at 634-4921 for more information.

WELCOME YOUR NEW CITY COUNCIL

The November election brought us four new Council members who will take office on New Year's Day. In case you missed it in the last issue, listed below, alphabetically, are a few introductory facts for each Council member; a get-acquainted 'town hall' session will be scheduled early in the new year for more depth and detail.

<p><i>Name:</i> Joanne Bader <i>Spouse:</i> Rob <i>Children:</i> Adult son <i>Address:</i> 1117 Cardinal Dr <i>Years resident:</i> 21 <i>Employer:</i> home and community <i>Interests/strengths:</i> governance, communications <i>Affiliations:</i> Garden Club, St. Stephen Martyr</p>

<p><i>Name:</i> Lindsey Breen <i>Spouse:</i> Alec Breen <i>Children:</i> 2 dogs <i>Address:</i> 1128 Dove Rd <i>Years resident:</i> 1</p>

Employer: Marketing Director, Professional Training Associates Inc.

Interests/strengths: activity planning, technology, gardening, historic preservation

Affiliations: I moved to Audubon Park in June of 2013, and became involved with the city through attending and recording all City Hall meetings for the Audubon Park Web site and Facebook page. This sparked my interest in serving a broader role in this very special neighborhood.

Name: Nancy Lou Zinner

Spouse: Gil

Children: Five adult children

Address: 3315 Wren Rd

Years resident: 48

Employer: Retired RN

Interests/strengths: natural resources, neighborhood development

Affiliations: Surgical Mercy Missions, Garden Club, SSM Quilters, St Louis Bertrand

Name: Darrell Shelton

Spouse: Nancy

Children: 3 adult children - Amy, Allison, and Taylor

Address: 919 Audubon Pkwy

Years resident: 35

Employer: semi-retired from Jefferson County Public Schools; part-time School Technology Coordinator at Lassiter Middle School

Interests/strengths: area beautification, recycling, household and yard waste management

Affiliations: Jefferson County Retired Teachers Association, Kentucky Retired Teachers Association, Bellarmine Veritas Society, Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, Sierra Club Volunteer activities include Project Warm, Kentucky Homefront, and the Clifton Center.

I am also on the Advisory Committee to the Jefferson County Waste Management District Board of Directors.

Name: Laura Stevens

Spouse: Mark

Children: Adult stepson & daughter

Address: 1021 Oriole Ct

Years resident: 19

Employer: Transamerica

Interests/strengths: finances

Affiliations: St. Stephen Martyr, Concordia Lutheran Church, Project Management Institute

Name: Tony Williams

Spouse: Sarah

Children: 2 boys

Address: 3220 Eagle Pass

Years resident: 15

Employer: Williams & Williams, Inc.

Interests/strengths: roads, facilities, communication

Affiliations: SSM Moss, SSM Athletic Board, 15 years Youth Football Coach, St. Paul UMC

POLICE REPORT

Chief Doug Sweeney

This is the second of a series of articles hoping to address various 'grapevine' concerns about your police department's activities and services. I'm always happy to speak personally to residents with concerns – but here are more general observations:

LMPD is taking runs in our city because we are spending too much time elsewhere. One resident made this observation because LMPD personnel were seen at the scene of a burglary that occurred this fall. LMPD did send one of their Crime Scene Units to process the scene for us. LMPD has been *very* gracious to provide assistance to us when they are able to provide better service in some regard than your police department. My goal is to provide the *best* service to the City of Audubon Park's residents, and when that means calling in outside agencies for help, I will do it. Now, I learned how to lift fingerprints 23 years ago when I first was trained as a police officer – and haven't had to do it since! That's because my former employer, the Louisville Police Department/LMPD has always had a professional staff to handle crime scene processing. And, as I said, they are kind enough to give us access to their unit's hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of equipment and training, which benefits us and your city's citizens. When we had a serious incident in the spring, LMPD sent us their Hostage Negotiation Team, and SWAT team – at a very considerable cost, but for which they (thankfully!) did not charge the City of Audubon Park.

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Also, we occasionally provide back-up to LMPD officers when they are out on something close by – and they return the favor. That is a tremendous help to us, for our safety, as we often only have one officer on duty. We also will pick up runs (burglar alarms, for example) in what is actually the Louisville Metro’s jurisdiction, when incidents are close by, and the LMPD officers are very busy. Again, it is a mutually beneficial arrangement – and much more so for the City of Audubon Park than Louisville Metro, I believe.

As for other reasons we might be out of the Audubon Park city limits, we do provide police services to Parkway Village and Audubon Hospital. The hospital is mainly paying us to respond to calls for help that they may need – as we can generally respond more quickly than LMPD. We also will drive through here and there and write parking tickets or just check the lot. That takes very little time.

Parkway Village (PV) pays for about 3 hours a day of random patrols, and for us to respond to calls for service. This, too, is mutually beneficial. I have never run across criminals who restrict their illegal activities to one area. So, if we find suspicious people in PV, we may be protecting the City of Audubon Park also, being so close. We have many “eyes and ears” in PV who call us when they see something that seems suspicious, or when they get information that might be helpful to the police department’s mission to protect Audubon Park’s citizens. Certainly that is a benefit. The amount that PV pays your city also helps cover some of the financial burden Audubon Park’s residents bear. I truly believe our contract with PV is a “win-win” for both cities.

Our police officers are still outside Audubon Park city limits making traffic stops. That’s true; *however*, most of the time the officers are working overtime, *paid by the state* (using Federal dollars), under a grant known as the Highway Safety Grant. We are paid to look for violations that increase the possibility of accidents or injuries that occur during accidents. We sometimes may make a stop on duty, if we see violations on the way to or from PV or the hospital but the majority of the time we are working on grant-

paid overtime. Another couple of “*however*’s”: under the grant provisions, the City of Audubon Park is also reimbursed for fuel costs, *and* the city receives \$20 from each citation that results in fines and court costs! So, your city actually makes money during its state-paid enforcement, in addition to help keeping its residents and others safer on the roadways.

Residents are not apprised when we have incidences of crime. While we can always do a better job of posting messages on the Audubon Park website, or the AP Police site, when something occurs, let me assure you that serious crime is still a rare occurrence in Audubon Park. But if you’ll watch the websites, and Facebook pages, I will try to keep those updated. If you have neighbors who don’t have access to those forums, please share the information. Our residents are our best source of information – our “*eyes and ears*”! We love your input and calls when you see something “amiss”!

To put into perspective exactly what your police department is doing for you, here is a brief snapshot of the crime situation in the zip code in which you reside (40213):

From January 1 to September 13 of this year, LMPD reported 496 crimes in these categories in the 40213 zip code:

Aggravated Assaults 30
Simple Assaults 36
Thefts 215
Burglaries 95
Homicides 1
Vandalism 75 (not counting graffiti)

While, *in the City of Audubon Park* in the same period:

Aggravated Assaults ZERO
Simple Assaults ZERO
Thefts 10 (8 were from vehicles)
Burglaries 2
Homicides ZERO
Vandalism 1

The 40213 zip code, minus Audubon Park, has about 10 times the population of Audubon Park - yet it has nearly *23 times* the incidence of crime! And Audubon

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Park has nearly *zero* of the “big ticket” items (assaults, robberies, homicides, burglaries). It’s almost as if there’s a ‘force field’ around your city – and there is: your police department!

Keeping that good news in mind, please note that your city is very *low* crime; it is *not* crime free! That place does not exist on earth. But, in the city of Louisville, Audubon Park is about as good as it gets!

I want to thank you for your continued support of your police department. We take our job very seriously, and try to provide you with the best service possible. I look forward to covering some more concerns with you next issue. Stay safe!

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Our contractor’s representative, Tim McNally, submitted the following message on behalf of Waste Management, Inc, regarding the theft incident mentioned in the mayor’s column:

During the month of November, we had a very unfortunate incident that took place with one of our temporary employees while servicing the residents of Audubon Park. A purse was left on top of a resident’s car. The temporary employee stole the purse and its contents. The temporary employee was confronted by the Audubon Park Police Department where he confessed and was arrested by the police officer. In addition to the arrest, his employment has been terminated. Fortunately, all items were recovered except a small amount of cash. We have been in touch with the homeowner and have agreed to replace everything including the purse and all of its contents. We went further as to contact our Corporate Security Department to help alleviate future problems. We are taking further action and are looking into the contract we have with our current temporary service provider. This company provides employment to less than 5% of our work force. We are regretfully sorry for this instance and are actively working hard to insure this never happens again.

This message is ‘as submitted’ by the sender, with no assessment of its accuracy or completeness. It must be said that this is the first word seen here of “temporary employees” being used by WMI in Audubon Park.

The message also contained a paragraph about restrictions on types of waste to be collected,

specifically excluding “construction debris.” Since that restriction is not part of our contract, that inaccurate part of the message is not reproduced here. Construction contractors typically haul away their own debris, which may be the reason this topic hasn’t come up before. But anyone with waste not properly collected should continue to contact City Hall for assistance.

Notices have already been circulated, in this newsletter, on our social media pages and Web site, and by direct handbill, regarding the revised yard waste policy taking effect at the new year. WMI has not published any implementing guidance, but after questioning indicates they will simply stop picking up any yard waste in non-biodegradable plastic bags. Hopefully the advance notices above have been adequate to prepare everybody for the change.

Holiday reminders: After Christmas and New Year’s Day, Friday pickups will slip to Saturday.

COMMUNICATIONS

Staying in touch has been a centerpiece of current City government, with an evolving mix of meetings, newsletters, Web site development, social media, text/email/voicemail bursts, newspaper notices, letter mail, hand delivery, supplies placed for pickup – and, of course, direct access to City Hall and Council members. We need your help to make sure the mix is as effective as possible.

If you’re not already ‘wired in,’ please review the channels available for different City communications that may be of interest:

For urgent messages you can elect to receive by any combination of voice-mail, text message, or email, visit *ReachAlert.com* and sign up for the Audubon Park service you prefer. This is being provided on a complimentary basis for now, so it’s important to see whether it’s useful enough to contract later.

For more routine notices you’d still like to get an email (only) about, contact City Hall either by phone or through the Web site (see below) to be added to the *AudubonNews* distribution list.

For topical discussion, general news and notices, and open dialogue on issues of interest, 'like' one or more of the City's Facebook pages:

- *Friends of Audubon Park*: more historical content, but fewer subscribers for dialogue.
- *Audubon Park Residents*: curtailed history after forced conversion of format, but more subscribers. Otherwise generally same current content as *Friends*.
- *City of Audubon Park Police*: focus on law enforcement issues and events.

You may also encounter a couple of other pages maintained by private citizens: *Friends and Residents of Audubon Park* is a socially-oriented general information page; *Audubon Park Residents* (same name as above) is a closed group. There's a lot of buzz out there – don't miss out!

For reference material, archives, and procedural help, the City's Web site, *AudubonParkKY.org*, is a growing and definitive resource. A further collection of invaluable forest-specific material can be found at *TreeCommittee-APKY.org*.

State law requires ordinances and some other official notices to be published, in full or by certified summary, either by newspaper, or first-class direct mail. With current newspaper circulation, and rates, mailings are the much more effective choice. But 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?

HELLO - WHO'S THERE?

Charles Edward Loudon
Candidate for Audubon Park Police Officer

Ed Loudon graduated from Arkansas State University in 1991 with a Bachelors Degree. He played basketball there for four years and was a starting guard. He is 6"5. Ed started his career in law enforcement as a correctional officer supervisor in 1991. He worked in corrections for 5 years, and was also assigned as a Classification and Treatment Officer the last two years. The next step of his

law enforcement career was as a Probation and Parole Officer. He worked there for two years. Ed Loudon moved on to become a Louisville Police Officer in 1998. He retired from the Louisville Metro Police Dept in March of this year. Ed had a very distinguished career with LMPD, where he received over 40 letters of commendations and awards. The highlight of his career was working as a detective with the ATF as a Task Force Officer. Ed Loudon completed the ATF Task Force Academy on August 27, 2010. Ed is married and has a son and daughter and loves to travel with his family.

More introductions to follow – please stay tuned!

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

- In addition to community calendars, event notices, meeting schedules, and official information, the entire City Code is available on the Web site, *AudubonParkKY.org*, with provisions on parking, permit requirements, nuisance abatement, and all the rest. Please visit often!
- 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. Recycling is collected on Tuesday, and yard waste on Friday. Garbage is collected from behind your house both days, while yard waste and recycling items are to be placed at the curb.

Holiday reminders: After Christmas and New Year's Day, Friday pickups will slip to Saturday.



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