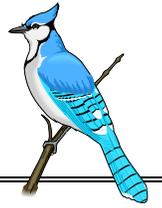




# The Official Newsletter of The City of Audubon Park



Dorn Crawford, Mayor  
Janette Mercer, City Clerk  
City Hall: 3340 Robin Road  
637-5066  
[www.AudubonParkKY.org](http://www.AudubonParkKY.org)  
 Audubon Park Residents



City Council:

Joanne Bader  
Lindsey Breen  
Darrell Shelton

Laura Stevens  
Tony Williams  
Nancy Zinner

Issue 70

June 2015

## MAYOR'S MUSINGS

*Dorn Crawford*

Folks, this spring has been a *season to remember*, before even the Triple Crown! We managed to adopt a balanced budget, despite late-breaking news of property assessment spikes and resulting appeals; anticipated losses from early-payment discounts; insurance premium hikes; and several other uncertainties. On balance, we should still be able to pursue the most urgent deferred maintenance and other initiatives in the budget proposal – but there are some hard choices ahead. We continue to look at alternative funding sources like those described in previous columns, and my May 15 budget message, and always welcome feedback and more new ideas. To recap, those on the table already include

- A levy, approved by public referendum, to establish and maintain a restricted fund for the ongoing maintenance of City parks.
- Establishment of non-profit corporations within City departments that could conduct voluntary tax-deductible fund-raising activities.
- A local-option property tax surcharge, approved by public referendum, to fund a specific project, and expire when the project is completed.
- Rental of City facilities for meetings, ceremonies, parties, etc.
- Intensive screening and pursuit of grant opportunities from public and private sources for eligible programs.
- Establishment of necessary accounts, and active screening of sources, to acquire needed equipment through government and commercial surplus disposal.

Most of these avenues are untried, and all have the disadvantage of taking a lot longer to get final results than direct budgeting. But some show real promise for the longer term, especially by engaging everybody in supporting the specific programs and projects they want, either by referendum or voluntary contribution. Please let me or your favorite Councilor know your thoughts and reactions, and other ideas we should be exploring. We look forward to hearing from you!

There are several internal projects under way that won't produce direct visible results around the City, but are essential to support the operations that do. Documentation and record-keeping are intensive and time-consuming, and because they're less visible are the easiest functions to fall behind, as our own situation has so clearly shown. But these are the functions that ultimately define the organization and its capacity to operate well. So you may not see up close, but hopefully will get the benefit of:

- Recodification of the City's ordinances. This is a complete retooling of the City Code to conform to changes in statutes, eliminate inconsistencies and conflicts, incorporate newer ordinances, and identify further areas of development.
- An updated and streamlined Council orientation packet of key references, resources and procedural guidance.
- A thoroughly revised City Employee Handbook, consolidating personnel policies and procedures, standards of conduct, classification and compensation, and work schedules and standards.
- City staff procedure guides for recurring functions, to permit consistent, predictable and reliable results from staff operations in all areas.

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- A coherent records management system that meets state standards, and provides secure storage, access and retrieval of essential City working materials and archives.

There are a couple more big-ticket items on the horizon I hope you'll be thinking about:

- We should start our conversation soon on waste management, as we enter the third year of our current 3-year contract. What services are essential, how often, and at what cost? Should we keep a uniform scheme for every household, or seek an *à la carte* franchise deal that might add administrative costs, but allow everyone to pick their own services? We need to hear from you.
- The next state legislative session is already taking shape, with a number of small-city as well as general-interest items likely to need scrutiny: land use regulation, tax credits, historic preservation, annexation, tax reform, and others.

Finally (for now!), be sure and give a big thumbs-up when you see them to our most recently established group of heavy lifters, the Parks and Recreation Board. Laura Jones, Mike Lally, Amy Shelton, Mark Stephens and Daniel Steven put on a heck of a show at the inaugural *Forest Fest*, and have several more events and activities in the chute or on the drawing board – all aiming to be self-sustaining. They need to hear your thoughts and ideas too. This is gonna be a fun place. We are The Park!

### ***HELP WANTED!***

There are always needs for dedicated citizens to apply their talents to help achieve community goals. The last two years have seen an outpouring of energy and enthusiasm that have sustained the City, and given real momentum to new ideas and initiatives.

But people do rotate out as things change, and new faces are essential. At present, vacancies need to be filled for:

- Ethics Board member
- Code Enforcement Board member
- Code Enforcement Board alternate member

Please consult the City Web site for information on the boards, or inquire at City Hall. We really need your help!

## **SUMMER SAFETY TIPS**

*Chief Doug Sweeney*

*adapted from Town of Cary, NC*

### *Tips for Homeowners*

- Keep doors in your home closed and locked, including your garage doors – even when you are working outside in your yard. An open door is an invitation.
- Be a good neighbor and alert police to any unusual activity in your neighborhood. Keep a check on your neighbors – especially your elderly neighbors. Keep a watchful eye out for any unusual activity or people in your neighborhood. If something looks suspicious – call the police dispatch (574-5471)! We are always glad to check it out!
- Plan for vacation by having your mail and newspapers stopped, or having a neighbor pick them up.
- Leave inside lights on timers to create the impression that your house is occupied. Be sure to set your alarm system. Have a lawn service or neighbor mow your lawn.
- Avoid home improvement scams and deception burglaries by taking a proactive approach. Be particularly alert to anyone in your neighborhood looking to perform home repair and asking to gain entry into your home. Ask to see identification and let them know you are going to call and get verification from their company before allowing them inside. If they are legitimate, they won't mind the wait.

### *Tips for Drivers*

- Do not leave valuables or cash in your car. If you must leave items in the car, lock them in the trunk. If you have folding rear seats, make sure those are locked, too.
- Be alert for children playing in neighborhoods and residential areas. Young children may be more concerned about catching a ball that rolls into the street than watching for vehicles coming toward them.

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- Drive safely and slowly around parks and playgrounds. More children are out playing during the summer.

#### *Tips for Parents*

- Provide a list of phone numbers of neighbors, family, and friends that your child can call in an emergency. Make sure your child knows how to dial 911, and when it is appropriate to do so.
- Know the route your child will take to and from a given location. Remind your child never to take a shortcut or deviate from the agreed-upon route.
- Establish rules for using the Internet. Children should have adult supervision when online. Make sure your child knows to never give out personal information on the Internet.
- Require your child to check in with a parent before leaving the house and when returning home. Teach your child that there is safety in numbers and that it is best to be with a group of friends when going places without an adult.
- Provide a bike helmet and require your child to wear it, as well as brightly colored or reflective clothing.

### **AUDUBON PARK GARDEN CLUB NEWS**

*Joanne Bader*

#### *Audubon Park Garden Tour – Saturday June 27th*

Audubon Park's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Tour is scheduled for Saturday, June 27th from 10 am to 4 pm. There will be six homes featured on the tour, as well as the Monarch Butterfly Waystation in Curlew Park; tickets will be available at City Hall on the day of the event for \$15. There will also be a plant sale and refreshments at City Hall. We hope you will invite family and friends to join you in touring the local gardens; all proceeds from the event are returned to the community as funds for park maintenance or tree plantings, or for community-wide events such as the Community Christmas Celebration and the Dogwood Festival.

#### *Festival of the Dogwood Recap*

Audubon Park was blessed with a beautiful display of blooms during the annual Festival of the Dogwood. The official lighting to open the festival was held Friday night during Forest Fest – a wonderful event that paired the city's dedication to its urban forest with beauty of our dogwood trees! Forest Fest attracted huge crowds to its inaugural event and was a terrific opener to the Festival of the Dogwood! Sunday's concert at Audubon Baptist Church on Hess Lane traditionally marks the end of the festival and was well attended. Music was provided by the River Cities Concert Band and they did a fabulous job as always. The concert is underwritten by residents Louis and Carol Korb – to whom we owe a debt of gratitude for providing such a lovely free community event! Several dignitaries spoke during the concert: Steve Magre, 10<sup>th</sup> District Council Member; Jim Wayne, State Rep for the 35<sup>th</sup> district, and Mayor Dorn Crawford. Judge Katie King gave a loving tribute to her late father Jim King, who was a fervent supporter of Audubon Park and our annual Festival of the Dogwood. The Garden Club would like to thank the residents of Audubon Park who spotlighted trees and flowering shrubs and beautified their yards for the visual enjoyment of visitors and residents alike.

#### *Successful Brightside Cleanup on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>*

Brightside's Community-Wide Spring Cleanup was held Saturday, April 18th. Approximately 11 members of the Garden Club and fellow residents (including two very active young volunteers) came out to clean along the Preston entrance to Audubon Park. About 14 bags of garbage were collected. The Garden Club sponsors neighborhood cleanups along Preston Highway in conjunction with Brightside twice a year, in the spring and fall. Garden Club member Cathy Lally coordinates the event and can be reached at 773-0780 for more information. Come this fall, and be a part of making Audubon Park a more beautiful community!

#### *New Officers and Upcoming Garden Club Programs*

The Garden Club just installed its first non-resident Club President – Jane Jonczy! We thank her for stepping up to the plate to lead our group. Other newly installed officers are Betsy Maxwell as Recording Secretary, and Gene Stotz as Second Vice

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President. Continuing in their roles as officers are Janet Shumate as Treasurer, Margaret Tanguay as First Vice President and Nancy Zinner as Corresponding Secretary. The Garden Club programs go on hiatus during the busy summer growing season. They will resume in September; programs will be listed on the city website in August. Stay tuned...

*Thanks for Volunteers Maintaining Public Gardens*

All residents owe a debt of gratitude to a small group of residents who have taken responsibility for cleaning and planting of the public flower beds located throughout the Park. Most are Garden Club or Forest Board members who have additional responsibilities within Audubon Park, but are willing to spend time producing the beautiful flower displays at Robin, the flagpole at Oriole and at the five-way stop at Audubon/Cross Bill/Chickadee. These same individuals (Mike and Cathy Lally, Anne Bobigian, and Betty Weise) also clean out spent debris later in the year. Thank you for all of your hard work beautifying our city!

## **PARKS & RECREATION**

*Laura Jones*

April 17<sup>th</sup> was a picture perfect night, with the dogwoods in full bloom for *Forest Fest*. Several hundred residents and friends of Audubon Park came out to enjoy the music, food, and fun at the Parks and Recreation Board's first event, held in conjunction with the Garden Club's Festival of the Dogwood. Thanks to all who how came out and supported the event, the volunteers and city staff who made the event possible, and especially our generous sponsors:

*Forest Sponsor (\$500 - \$1000)*

- Limbwalker
- Anonymous

*Branch Sponsor (\$250 - \$499)*

- Charah Inc.
- Anonymous

*Trunk Sponsor (\$100 - \$249)*

- Audubon Park Garden Club
- Luv-It Landscaping
- Pat Mulvihill (personal donation)

- 2 Anonymous

*Root Sponsors (\$50 – \$99)*

- Gates Automotive Service
- Beth & John Stivers
- Anonymous

### ***Stay Tuned!***

Your Parks and Recreation Board is working on some exciting summer activities; watch for flyers and electronic notices to come for all the details!

Not 'plugged in' yet? Look to this issue's "Communications" article for useful leads!

## **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 are the latest you should meet:



**Brad Derrick**  
*City Engineer*

Brad is a licensed professional engineer, with a background in water resources. He has 10 years' experience in engineering consulting, including projects from less than \$50,000 to over \$10 million. He currently practices as a project engineer and project manager for DLZ,

a full service engineering and architectural consulting firm, in their Louisville office.

Brad is a Louisville native, a graduate of St. Xavier High School and Purdue University.

He is a member at St. Agnes Catholic Church, and professionally active in the Kentucky Society of Professional Engineers, the Kentucky-Tennessee Water Environment Association, and the American Council of Engineering Companies of Kentucky.

Brad and his wife Shannon have 3 sons, Everett (5), Owen (4) and Alden (3 months).



**Scott Barto**  
*Police Officer*

Scott Barto is from Harrodsburg, where he graduated from Harrodsburg High School. After high school, he served his country in the United States Army for 4 years of active duty and 5 more years in the reserves.

Officer Barto worked for the Jefferson County Corrections Department from 1988 to 1992 as a Correctional Officer. He left corrections to begin his career with the Louisville Division of Police in 1992, and retired from the Louisville Metro Police Department in 2014.

During his career with the police he served as an officer in two of the busiest divisions, the 3rd and 4th districts. He was accepted for a newly formed highly competitive Gang Unit where he served for 3 years. Officer Barto finished his career training recruits and officers for 13 years.



**Kenny Betts**  
*Police Officer*

Kenneth Betts was born and raised in Louisville, and has dedicated his life to public safety serving in several positions in Louisville over the past 15 years directly involved in law enforcement, firefighting and medical operations.

While at LMPD he served as a Patrol Officer in 3 Divisions, and achieved certifications as a Training Officer. He was also certified by the state of Kentucky as a Defensive Tactics Instructor, Driving Instructor, and Master Firearms Instructor.

He is an honors graduate from the University of Louisville with both Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Administration of Justice. He is currently a doctoral candidate in education organizational leadership at Spalding University.

Kenny left the LMPD to pursue teaching opportunities at the College level, and shortly thereafter was offered and accepted a position as manager of the Safety & Security program for eBay.

He is engaged to marry Varina, a JCS school teacher, in July, and is an active runner.



**Christopher Heaps**  
*Police Officer*

Officer Chris Heaps served honorably in the United States Army from 1984 to 1991 as a Fire Control Instrument Technician. He went to "Inactive Reserve" status from 1991 to 1993, when he officially separated from service.

In 1991 Chris applied for the Louisville Police Department, and was hired in October of that year. Officer Heaps was a patrolman in 3 different divisions from 1991 to 1995. In 1995 he applied for the newly formed Gang Unit and was picked over a large number of officers who applied. He became regionally renowned as an expert in gang related matters.

Chris left the Gang Unit in 1995 to do another stint in patrol until 1999. In 1999 he transferred to the training unit where remained until his retirement. He is an official "Glock" and "Taser" armorer, and holds certifications to train officers in many different skills areas, (which will allow us to do "in-house: training – which will save the City of Audubon Park money). Officer Heaps is married with 3 daughters. We are proud to have Officer Heaps as the latest addition to the Audubon Park Police Department.

*More introductions to follow – please stay tuned!*

## COMMUNICATIONS

*Tony Williams*

Please take a few minutes and explore our newly improved and updated website at [www.audubonparkky.org](http://www.audubonparkky.org).

The homepage of Audubon Park lists all monthly board meetings, Council meetings, and community events, which the public is always welcome and encouraged to attend. Time is always allowed for public comments at the beginning and end of each regularly scheduled City Council meeting, which typically occurs on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at 7pm. At our homepage you will notice links to our two main Facebook pages, *Audubon Park Residents* and *City of Audubon Park Police*. If you are on Facebook, be sure to like these two pages so that you will receive pertinent information as it becomes available.

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If you prefer to watch City Council meetings in the comfort of your home, then visit [www.audubonparkky.org/council-videos.html](http://www.audubonparkky.org/council-videos.html). Also at this link are videos of previous Council meetings where available.

Another area that residents find helpful is [www.audubonparkky.org/notification-systems.html](http://www.audubonparkky.org/notification-systems.html). Here you can sign up for e-mail alerts, electronic newsletters, house watch requests, Audubon Park reach alerts, and Louisville Metro reach alerts.

Information regarding common ordinances, sanitation, recycling, fire service, permits, voter information, tax assessments, open records requests and more can be found at [www.audubonparkky.org/resident-information.html](http://www.audubonparkky.org/resident-information.html).

Finally, [www.audubonparkky.org/government.html](http://www.audubonparkky.org/government.html) is the place to find contact information for the mayor, City Council, Audubon Park employees and officials, Audubon Park board members, and Louisville Metro, state, and federal government contacts. We always welcome and encourage the opportunity to hear from you as we continue to make strides in our communication efforts.

#### 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](http://AudubonParkKY.org), with provisions on parking, permit requirements, nuisance abatement, and all the rest. Please visit often!

- 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.
- 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 just 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](http://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 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.

Have a great  
summer,  
everybody!