




# The Official Newsletter of The City of Audubon Park



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[www.AudubonParkKY.org](http://www.AudubonParkKY.org)  
 Audubon Park City Hall



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## FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR WILLIAMS

*Tony Williams*

It is my sincere hope that everyone is staying safe and healthy. These are certainly unique and trying times for all of us. It is extremely refreshing to see all the manicured lawns, beautiful landscaping, and home improvements that are abundant in the neighborhood. I am sincerely thankful of the residents that are lighting up their dogwood trees, landscapes, and homes. If you have a dogwood tree, I encourage you to join in celebrating the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Dogwood Festival by lighting up your dogwood tree(s), landscaping, home, or a combination of all three. There will be no social aspect of the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Dogwood Festival this year due to the Coronavirus- so lighting it all up is all that we can do in hopes of lifting everyone's spirits. The timeframe for this is now through May 3rd.

City Hall is currently closed to the public due to the Coronavirus, but very much still functioning. We are moving forward with the final phase of our road repavement project. In late April or early May and contingent on weather, paving will resume for Oriole Drive, Thrush Road, Flagpole Circle, Audubon Parkway (Preston Highway to Eagle Pass), Robin Road, Dove Lawn, Dove Lane, Oriole Court, Wren Road, Linnet Road, Chickadee, and Curlew Avenue. Please do not park on these roads from April 27<sup>th</sup> to May 15<sup>th</sup> and more details to follow.

Our police department is still providing 24/7 service. The city clerk is still working but mostly from a remote location. Our public works and code

enforcement employees are working but rotating days. Our benches in the various city parks are closed and swings have been taken down for the safety of our residents until the Coronavirus has subsided.

Beautification efforts are continuing with the painting of all fire hydrants and the curbs situated at the flag circle and the triangle at Audubon Parkway/Robin Road. Parks are being mulched and trees are being pruned.

The last bit of exciting news is from District 10, Pat Mulvihill's office. The City of Audubon Park was successful in obtaining a neighborhood development grant that will help pay for a water fountain located at Cross Bill Park (the park located at Audubon Parkway and Cross Bill Road). This is a dual purpose water fountain that has a dog watering fountain at the base and a regular water fountain on top. We will have to delay the official opening and use until Coronavirus concerns have subsided. Thank you Councilman Mulvihill!

## FOREST BOARD NEWS

*Michael Blum- Chairperson*

It has been an abnormally warm winter, with the beauty of many of the spring ephemerals appearing early in February and March. Soon, the rest of the plant community will awaken from its winter rest, and our neighborhood will enjoy the striking pink and white blooms of our wonderful dogwood trees. While the trees were dormant over the past several months though, Forest Board volunteers were busy pruning trees in the street

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right of way. Board members pruned over 200 small trees this winter. If you see or know of any of the Forest Board members who volunteered their time in this endeavor, please thank them! Additionally, with the support of the city council and mayor, the Forest Board was able to identify larger trees in the street right of way in need of structural pruning and arrange for the pruning of these larger street trees by certified arborists. This is a great step towards maintaining and enhancing the health of our urban tree canopy.

Additionally, Forest Board members have completed an urban tree care guide to help answer some of the questions you may have in regards to proper tree care and maintenance. The tree guide is titled "City of Audubon Park Urban Tree Guide 2019" and is located at the bottom of the main city webpage, <https://www.audubonparkky.org/>. If you do not have access to the internet, but would like a copy of the tree care guide, please contact Forest Board Chair, Michael Blum, at Michael.blum13@gmail.com or 502-396-4029, and he will provide you with a printed copy of the guide.

As the ground continues to warm, we will soon start our round of spring tree plantings. While it is too late to sign up for a tree to be planted in the street right of way in the front of your house this spring, it is the perfect time consider a tree planting for this coming fall! With the generous support of the city council and the mayor, the Forest Board is able to purchase, plant and mulch tree seedlings in the street right of way at no cost to homeowners. If you are interested in this program, please contact the Forest Board chair to discuss options for the street right of way in your yard, as the Board is currently working on our fall tree order list.

The Forest Board meets the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 in City Hall. All are welcome!

**AUDUBON PARK POLICE**

*Chief Mike Minniear*

During this time of social distancing brought about by the Covid-19 (Corona) Virus, some of the regular operating procedures of the Audubon Park Police Department are being modified. We will update this information as the current pandemic situation evolves. First, I want to clear any rumors of Audubon Park Police not responding to dispatched runs. Audubon Park Police will respond and take necessary action on *every* dispatched run.

If you have an emergency or a situation that needs an immediate police response, continue to call the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Dispatch at (502) 574-5471 or dial 911. An officer will be notified immediately to assist you. If you require assistance that is not an emergency (i.e. you need to file a police report for a crime that is not currently in progress or need a copy of a report), please call (502) 574-5471. Advise dispatch to have the on-duty Audubon Park Police Officer call you. Dispatch will get some basic information from you and reach the on-duty Audubon Park Police Officer and they will call you.

If an officer responds to your home, you will notice that he/she will likely maintain approximately 6 feet of distance established by the CDC as an appropriate distance to help prevent the spread of Covid-19 (corona) Virus. Our officers may ask health related questions to determine if anyone in your household has encountered or has been infected by Covid-19 (Corona) Virus. These extra steps aren't meant to alarm anyone, but they have been deemed by the CDC to be appropriate measures to prevent the potential spread of Covid-19 (corona) Virus during face to face contact between officers and residents. Our goal is to protect our residents and our officers, and we appreciate everyone's cooperation during this time.

For updated and accurate information regarding Covid-19 (corona) Virus, please visit the Center for Disease Control website at <https://www.cdc.gov/>

There have been three reported crimes between January 1<sup>st</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup>. Crime in the area surrounding Audubon Park is up. It is very important you call our dispatch and report any

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suspicious activity you see. The police response time is very fast and if you call right away, we can usually stop and identify anyone we believe might be in our neighborhood to commit a crime. As always, keep emailing me your Ring videos to [mminniar@audubonparkky.org](mailto:mminniar@audubonparkky.org).

The Audubon Park Police has started a Reserve Officer Program. The Reserve officers will volunteer to work 8 hours a month. All Reserve Officers are retired police officers. They will keep their police certification up by attending the forty-hour yearly training required by the Kentucky Law Enforcement Council. April is the first month of the program. Here is a brief introduction of the four newest officers to be hired with the Audubon Park Police:

Officer Brian Frederick-Retired sergeant from the Louisville Metro Police Department. He is a veteran of the United States Army. During his career he worked in patrol and narcotics. He is married and has one daughter.

Officer Mike Weathers- Mike left the Louisville Metro Police Department six months ago and is currently a firefighter/police officer with the Louisville Airport Authority. During his career he worked as a patrol officer, school resource officer, and traffic unit. He is married with two kids.

Officer Tommy Harlowe- Retired as a Lieutenant in 2007 with the Louisville Metro Police Department. Is currently a Sergeant with the Louisville Fire Department. He worked in patrol, district detective, bike unit, K-9, and the public integrity unit. He is married with 3 children and a veteran of the United States Navy.

Officer Jimmy Childress- Retired from the Louisville Metro Police Department in 2019. He is a veteran of the United States Air Force. Jimmy worked as a patrol officer and mounted patrol unit. Every year during the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade Jimmy has rode his horse in the parade during his time with the Louisville Metro Police Mounted Patrol Unit.

We will have these officers' pictures posted on the City of Audubon Park web page. Please go to the site and it will have a picture of all our officers and their email. All these officers are great additions to the Audubon Park Police Department and will work hard to keep your neighborhood safe.

## **AUDUBON PARK GARDEN CLUB NEWS**

*Joanne Bader*

### **Upcoming Garden Club Programs**

The Garden Club hosts a variety of programs from September to May which are open to all residents and their guests. And you don't even have to be a resident of Audubon Park to join the Garden Club! You just have to have an interest in gardening....Membership dues are \$30 per year for individuals or \$55 per couple and we have had several couples join in the last few years! If you are unable to participate in regular Garden Club events, please consider becoming a Patron by contributing a tax deductible gift of \$25 or more OR consider making a gift to the Garden Club in honor of John James Audubon whose birthday is April 26<sup>th</sup>! If you would like information about membership or donating to the Audubon Park Garden Club, please contact Janet Shumate at 636-0111.

Programs are held at Audubon Park City Hall, 3340 Robin Road, beginning at 1 p.m. (unless otherwise noted).

### **The Secret Life of Trees**

Jacquelyn McGrail, a Master Gardener and Landscape Design Consultant, recently spoke at the Garden Club's February meeting on the "Secret Life of Trees" which was fascinating. Evidently there has been a lot of research on trees and some of the amazing findings include:

- Trees can defend and protect themselves from both insects and mammals; when attacked by an insect, they can call in predators of those insects to come eat their attackers.
- Trees can produce their own antibiotic and antifungal chemicals to fight back against disease or to close wounds.

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- There is a “Wood Wide Web” through which trees can share food and water with each other through their root systems which are linked to other tree roots by a network of fungi.
- Trees modify their environments to protect themselves from extremes in weather conditions e.g. droughts or temperature changes.
- Insects are the base layer of the food pyramid and operate in synergy with trees: they use trees but don’t destroy them and pollinate trees as well. *It is only when insects come from outside the natural/native ecosystem that they become destructive and can injure or kill trees – think of insects or diseases that have led to the decline or disappearance of elms, ash, hemlock and chestnut trees. All of these diseases or pests were brought into the US from outside countries! This is why it is so important to plant native trees and plants in home and public landscapes!*
- More than 80 insect species would become extinct if we lose Ash trees.

Ms. McGrail also noted that boxwoods are now becoming susceptible to a blight and that a good substitution is the inkberry holly which looks somewhat similar. If looking for a dwarf variety, she suggested “gem box”.

### **Gardening Tidbits**

A good indicator of when to cut back Knock Out roses is when forsythia starts to bloom. The Bulletin from the Garden Club of Kentucky recommends cutting well established plants back 2-3 feet shorter than the height you’d like your plants to be in the summer. Liriope should also be cut back before new growth forms

The best time to apply fertilizer to spring flowering bulbs is when the foliage emerges rather than when they begin to flower. Roots are active earlier than flowering and need the nutrients from fertilizer to produce flowers.

If you love growing paperwhites from bulbs indoors, put their “root” ends into a container filled with gravel or glass beads (or you can find special glass containers that rest the bulb above a lower chamber filled with water) and add water up till it hits the roots. Place in a sunny location. After the green shoots appear, you can replace the water in the pot with a mixture of 1 part gin or vodka to 7 parts water to keep them from getting too tall and leggy.

### **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 absolute physical control when outside. We now have Dog Waste Stations at each of our parks so please use them when dog walking *and picking up after your pets*.
- Building permits are issued through City Hall and the form can be downloaded from our website under “Building Permit.” If you have a project in mind, please call or come by City Hall for more information on obtaining a permit.
- Yard sale, parades, use of public parks, and other general permits can be applied for online at the “Permit Form” section of our website. Final permits are issued through City Hall. Please call or come by City Hall for more information on obtaining a permit.

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- There is a link at our website under "Links" where you can report any streetlights that are out of order directly to LG&E for repairs under "Streetlight Outage Online Form."
  - Permits are required for any work on city street easement trees including pruning or removal. Permits allow for the city to confirm tree companies are insured and to ensure the work being done will contribute to the overall health of our urban tree canopy. If you are unsure if your tree is in the easement, contact our Code Enforcement Officer Otto Mock at [Audubonparkcodeofficer@gmail.com](mailto:Audubonparkcodeofficer@gmail.com) or 502-554-6105.
  - Going on vacation? Leaving town for business? Whatever the reason may be, being away from your home for any length of time can lead to anxiety if you have security concerns. The Audubon Park Police Department House Watch program is designed to provide you with peace of mind by placing your address on a stepped-up patrol list for those living in the City limits of Audubon Park. Officers in your area will be instructed to keep a close eye on your property and to conduct area checks more regularly while you are away. There is a link at our website under "Form/Signups" where you can complete a house watch request. <https://www.audubonparkky.org/house-watch-request.html>
  - There is a link at our website under "Links" where you can "Report A Problem" to MSD regarding stormwater waste issues.
  - A resident Code Enforcement Complaint Form is located at the website so concerned residents can electronically report garbage, debris, graffiti, abandoned vehicles and property, parking, and overgrowth violations. Our Part-Time Code Enforcement Officer is Otto Mock and he can be reached at [Audubonparkcodeofficer@gmail.com](mailto:Audubonparkcodeofficer@gmail.com) or 502-554-6105.
  - 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 which is usually a day or two later). Garbage is picked up from behind your house, while yard waste and recycling items are to be placed at the curb. Do not place garbage at the curb as only yard waste and recycling are to be placed at the curb. Be sure to report any missed collection to City Hall.
  - 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 your safety so accidents don't occur – you may be harder to see than you think!
  - MSD offers rate assistance for senior citizens that are age 65 or older, have a gross annual income of \$35,000 or less and are both Louisville Water and MSD customers. An application can be made for a 30% discount on wastewater charges and the EPA surcharge by calling 502-540-6000.
  - Audubon Park has a Little Free Library located at the intersection of Wren and Audubon Parkway. The Little Free Library is a book/magazine/DVD/CD exchange for adults and children where you are free to drop off or take materials located in the outdoor book holder. The library steward is Amanda Thompson. If you have questions, concerns, or comments, please feel free to call, text or email her at 502-931-0790 or [amt924@hotmail.com](mailto:amt924@hotmail.com).
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## OTHER GOVERNMENT RELATED NEWS

*Tony Williams- Mayor*

Regarding the PVA and property re-assessments that typically happen every four years- the 2020 scheduled reassessment has changed; only properties that have sold, new construction, or properties with permits will be re-assessed. All other increases in reassessment will take place in year 2021 (now delayed a year).

For those affected, the Jefferson County PVA requested and has been granted an extended period from Noon on June 26<sup>th</sup> til 4pm July 20, 2020 for Jefferson County property owners to complete the first step of the appeals process: The Online Conference. This gives property owners who wish to appeal their property value an additional 10 days to complete the PVA conference.

Any property owner who wishes to appeal their property assessment must first conference with the Jefferson County Property Valuation Administrator online at [www.jeffersonpva.ky.gov](http://www.jeffersonpva.ky.gov). Property Owners who disagree with their property assessment must provide documentation to support their opinion of value.

Out of an abundance of caution all 2020 PVA Conferencing will now be done through their online tool on the PVA website [www.jeffersonpva.ky.gov](http://www.jeffersonpva.ky.gov) or by teleconference. Appointments for teleconferences can be made by calling the PVA office at 502-574-6224.

The PVA premium service website, including the neighborhood sales research tool is available free of charge during the COVID-19 State of Emergency through the end of conferencing at [www.jeffersonpva.ky.gov](http://www.jeffersonpva.ky.gov). The PVA premium service website is available free of charge year round at all Louisville Free Public Libraries and at the PVA office.

Kentucky's Constitution allows property owners who are 65 or older to receive the Homestead Exemption on their primary residence. If you are eligible to receive the Homestead Exemption, the exemption amount is subtracted from your property's assessed value, reducing your property tax liability. The Homestead Exemption for 2019-2020 is \$39,300.

Only one exemption (Homestead or Disability) is allowed per household. Once approved for the Homestead Exemption, you are not required to reapply annually. You are eligible for the Homestead Exemption on residential or commercial property as long as you own and occupy the property as your primary residence and meet all other qualifying criteria.

## 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, email subscriber list, and now delivered 4 times a year in print.
- 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.
- **Two Social media** pages on Facebook are in use to make announcements, schedule activities and events, exchange ideas, and promote dialogue: ***Audubon Park City Hall***, the main civic page and ***Audubon Park Police Department***, focusing on law enforcement and public safety. Be sure to like both pages in order to receive communication from them. *Audubon Park Residents, Friends of Audubon Park, and Friends & Residents of Audubon Park* are not official Audubon Park Facebook pages.

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· **Nextdoor** is social networking site that brings back good old-fashioned neighborhood chatter between your neighbors across the street and you. It puts you in touch with folks down the block and even people a few miles down the road. Nextdoor is also like Facebook, where you can scan through your contacts' posts and photos, and you can post your own messages and photos. You might alert those neighbors to prowlers you spotted in the neighborhood. Your neighbors might recommend a good plumber or mechanic. They could also tell you about yard sales or appliances they're giving away. Or you can alert them to a stray dog you found.

· 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."

· **ReachAlert** is 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 are listed on the **Web calendar**.

· Or, just dropping by **City Hall**, for information or an informal chat (when COVID-19 is over).

Always be sure to let the mayor or your favorite council member know your thoughts and ideas!