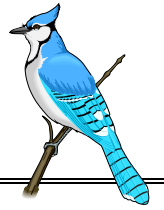





The Official Newsletter of The City of Audubon Park



Tony Williams, Mayor
Janette Mercer, City Clerk
City Hall: 3340 Robin Road
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www.AudubonParkKY.org
 Audubon Park City Hall



City Council:
Jennifer Kleier
Brittney Gorter
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Madeline Bozeman
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Issue 88

December 2019

FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR WILLIAMS

Tony Williams

I hope everyone is enjoying the holidays or will be enjoying holiday time. A new Mayor and City Council took office at the year's beginning, quickly mastering its agenda. Eight new ordinances and nine municipal orders were passed addressing a broad range of issues such as garage heights, yard sales, solar panels, and an updated forestry code. Seventeen board members were appointed, several new police officers have been sworn in, along with the hiring of a new city attorney and part-time code enforcement officer. I don't know if that is a record number for legislating in an Audubon Park year but it certainly feels like it.

Enhanced morale, dedication and commitment have encouraged our employees to stay and we've continued to be very lucky in borrowing the valuable time and effort of many volunteer residents whom I am very thankful for. Those who've had recent contact with City Hall know who hold it all together: City Clerk/Treasurer Janette Mercer, who keeps and maintains the records, pays the bills, and dispenses all manners of assistance; Tony Ahlbrand, part-time bookkeeper doing regular financial reporting, fiscal recordkeeping, and audit and budget process participation; Police Chief Mike Minniear, whose crew keeps us safe and orderly, enforcing all manners of local, state and Federal law; Public Works operator Jason Payne, who mows, plows, repairs and maintains our precious City resources and also keeping clear the roads of hazards; part-time Code Enforcement Officer Otto Mock, who was appointed earlier this year to uphold and enforce our code of

ordinances; part-time mechanic and handyman Ed Seger who saves the city money in many ways including vehicular maintenance and other valuable updates to City Hall; and our city attorney Keith Larson. All of these invaluable individuals wear many important hats in a city the size of Audubon Park and I am very thankful for each and every one of them as the city could not properly function without them.

Seventeen board appointments have been filled, including the ranks of the Code Enforcement, Ethics, Forest, and Parks and Recreation Boards. As resident moves and other demands arise, vacancies will come up. So please continue to support these important City functions by volunteering your time, especially in the current needed area of the Parks & Recreation board.

Outreach efforts to promote community networking have been difficult but ongoing, as its both humorous and confusing why a city our size should have six Facebook pages containing the words Audubon Park. The only two official Facebook pages are **Audubon Park City Hall** and **Audubon Park Police Department**. Comprehensive Web postings; social media interaction; electronic mail feeds for both routine and emergency notices; hard-copy mail for state-mandated materials; monthly Council meetings, periodic town hall gatherings; quarterly newsletters; old-fashioned phone calls, and neighborly conversations shall continue. New online permitting processes and miscellaneous code complaint forms have been added to the City website for civic ease of use and instant streamlining of information to appropriate parties.

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Entrance columns have been professionally restored, power supplies for electric lamp post lighting and outlets have been installed along with professional landscaping. Unreliable and aged service vehicles have been sold and replaced where essential. The most urgent road repairs and repaving have gone forward, and additional repairs will resume in early summer, as resources permit. Old, unsightly garbage cans in the parks have been removed and replaced with new, more attractive replacements. Dog waste stations have been added to the parks to aid pet owners in picking up after their pets.

Most recently a contract was signed to finally update the City's code of ordinances to conform to the last twenty-three years of new law. Similar projects are currently under way targeting the City's employee handbook and internal procedures. Much work remains, for sure, but the progress is more than encouraging.

A new five-year waste collection contract with Waste Management, LLC was negotiated to include no increases in fees. This year saw several utility projects undertaken most notably a long awaited utility tree trimming project that should help ease power outages and a drain cleanout at the end of Henderson Park and Wren Road was finally performed that removed nearly two full dump trucks of dirt, debris, leaves, and rubbish.

The City has begun implementing our own independent franchise arrangements with telecommunication companies that should yield close to double resources from this avenue as previous years. Other new increases in revenues have come from interest bearing accounts and contract modification.

The Forest Board continues to do a terrific job of maintaining and restoring our urban canopy. The emerald ash borer has continued 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 our neighborhood. The new Forest Board website is nearing completion.

The 'playscapes' initiative continues as the Parks & Rec Board will be working to identify more suitable locations and facilities for the new generation. Tire and infant swings remain hanging in Wren, Oriole and Cross Bill Parks. Other developments are expected to charter or soon follow.

This year provided an outstanding combination of fun in our public spaces, from a memorable Dogwood Festival celebration, to an Easter egg hunt, to an excellent Independence Day parade, yoga in the park, movie nights, a meet and greet cookout with the police department, to a standout fall Auktoberfest and ending with a Community Christmas celebration. The inaugural neighborhood yard sale was also a huge success and rumor is that it might become an annual event.

Neighborhood bragging rights and pride is at stake as the holiday decoration contest has been restored with a few twists. There are 4 categories this year: 1) Traditional 2) Best Use of Lights 3) Best Use of Inflatables 4) Best Entry Way. Winners will receive a yard sign and a dogwood ornament. Our Community Christmas celebration is December the 8th from 6pm to 8pm at City Hall and I hope to see you there!

Enclosed with the newsletter is a magnet of important phone numbers that I'd prefer you'd put on your refrigerator in case you ever need it. Once again, I thank you for your continued confidence and support as we work together to continue to move our great City forward. Enjoy your holidays and have a safe and Happy New Year!!!

FOREST BOARD NEWS

Michael Blum- Chairperson

As the last leaves fall this winter, the Forest Board has completed its fall tree planting work. Over the past couple months, the Forest Board has planted twenty new tree seedlings in city right of way areas and city parks. To our residents who have already actively taken a step in restoring our urban tree canopy by agreeing to plant a tree, thank you! For those who wish to plant a tree next spring, please contact Forest Board Chair, Michael Blum through

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email, phone call, or text message at Michael.blum13@gmail.com or 502-396-4029, as the Board is currently working on our spring tree order list.

With tree planting behind us for the season, the Forest Board is transitioning to pruning trees that have been planted in the city street easements in the past few years. In pruning these trees, the Forest Board utilizes a technique called structural pruning, which is intended to develop stronger, healthier trees. An excerpt below from a paper published by the University of Florida does a great job in explaining why structural pruning is important and how it benefits trees in our cities.

“Many shade trees in the forest grow straight, tall trunks as they compete with neighboring trees for sunlight. In the landscape, however, the abundance of sunlight encourages trees to develop multiple, competing trunks or leaders. This type of structure is susceptible to mechanical breakage and can reduce tree longevity. But trees with one, dominant leader and small, well-spaced branches, like trees in the forest, are less likely to suffer this type of mechanical failure. The dominant leader structure also makes trees better able to retard the spread of decay within the tree. Structural pruning in the landscape aims to develop the strong tree structure we see in the forest. Structural pruning selectively favors a single, dominant leader by suppressing competing leaders using reduction cuts. Structural pruning on shade trees should occur regularly when the tree is less than about 20 inches in trunk diameter to establish good form early. It is normally performed every few years to gradually encourage more growth in the selected leader. Proper structural pruning should be performed on most species that become large at maturity to promote longevity, decrease future maintenance costs, and reduce conditions in the tree that could place people or property at risk.”

Gillman, E. F., & Eisner, N. J. (n.d.). Structural Pruning of Shade Trees. Retrieved November 9, 2019, from

<https://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/documents/structural.pdf>.

For additional visual graphics on structural pruning, please follow the link in the citation above. Proper structural pruning requires training, so please remember that any pruning a resident wishes to have completed must go through the permit process. Permit applications can be found in City Hall or on the city website. If you see Forest Board members pruning a tree and have questions, please ask! As always, if you are interested in joining the Forest Board, please contact the chairperson at the contact information listed above.

AUDUBON PARK POLICE

Major Teddy Laun



The Holiday season is upon us and we are working hard at the Police Department to keep you and your property safe. Thieves do their holiday shopping a little differently than the rest of us. They peek into cars and into the windows of homes looking for presents and anything of value that they can grab. Most often, items are removed from vehicles that are unlocked. PLEASE, LOCK YOUR DOORS! If there are valuables visible, it is much more tempting for a thief to smash a car window or break into a residence to steal your belongings. PLEASE, KEEP VALUABLES OUT OF SIGHT! We want your gifts to end up in the hands of your loved ones and not in the hands of a thief.

Internet and phone scams are also on the rise. No government agency, utility company, or other legitimate business will ever ask you to pay your bill or a fine using gift cards. Once you give a gift card number and the pin to someone, the funds from that card are typically gone within seconds. Never give your personal information or banking information to anyone over the phone. If something seems too good to be true, it probably is. There is no Prince waiting to split his inheritance with any of us, so please don't buy into that fairytale.

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Sadly, the Holiday Season brings cold weather and more hours of darkness. It is so tempting to leave your car running to warm up and go back inside the house where it is toasty. This is a perfect opportunity for someone to steal your vehicle. Owners who leave a running vehicle unattended will be cited. This, of course, does not apply to owners who have remote start.

Despite the cold and the darkness, we have some very dedicated walkers and runners in Audubon Park. Many of you are out and about before dawn. **Wearing reflective clothing, vests or armbands** helps make you more easily visible to motorists. Visibility helps keep everyone safe and helps prevent tragic accidents.

On a final note, enjoy the holidays and the parties, but please do not drink and drive. Use a designated driver, a cab or a ride share service such as Uber or Lyft.



We look forward to seeing you and your beautiful holiday decorations. Look for Police Department updates on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/AudubonParkPoliceDepartment/>

If you need an immediate response from the Audubon Park Police Department, call the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office at (502)574-5471 or dial 911. Enjoy the holidays with your loved ones!

HELLO - WHO'S THERE?

Chief Mike Minniear

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. Todd Boyd and Sean Pate are the latest additions to our police force you should meet:



Bruce "Todd" Boyd was born and raised in Louisville, Kentucky and graduated from Holy Cross High School in 1995. After high school, Todd attended Eastern Kentucky University and Jefferson Community College. Todd began his career in law enforcement with

the Jefferson County Sheriff's office in June of 1999. He remained with them until he joined the Louisville Division of Police in 2001.

Todd was the last officer to be named "Rookie of the Year" for the Louisville Division of Police. After merger, Todd worked in numerous units of the Louisville Metro Police Department. He has experience as a narcotics officer as part of a task force and as a nuisance abatement officer. He has many contacts in the Office of Inspections, Permits and Licensing. During his years with LMPD, he became a Division Resource Officer and received numerous awards which include 5 lifesaving awards and several merit awards.

Todd and his wife, Erica, live in South Louisville with their two children. Todd enjoys working out and spending time with his family. Todd and his wife are starting a new adventure of being the parents of

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student athletes. In addition to time with his wife and kids, Todd helps take care of his father.



Mike Sean Pate was born and raised in Louisville, Ky. He graduated from Eastern High School in 1986. After High School, Sean attended the University of Louisville and earned a Bachelor of Science in Police Administration in 1992. Sean began his career in

Law Enforcement in 1996 with the Louisville Division of Police. He worked in the HALO program in the Iroquois Housing Project and was a member of the SWAT Team and the Community Policing Team. Sean was awarded the Purple Heart from the Police Department. In 2007, Sean became a Student Resource Officer and worked in Westport and Kammerer Middle Schools and Moore High School. Sean was a School Resource Officer until his retirement from LMPD in August 2019.

Sean is married and is raising his 3 children with his wife, Elizabeth. Their youngest child is 7 months old. Sean is an avid New Orleans Saints fan and in his spare time, he enjoys target shooting, riding his wave runner and spending time with his family.

AUDUBON PARK GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Joanne Bader

Let's Get the City Decorated for the Holidays!

Although it is not yet Thanksgiving as this is being written, we all know Christmas is just around the corner and will be coming up soon...these days, it seems like reminders start on or before Halloween! For the last few years, the Garden Club stopped sponsoring the annual Christmas Community Celebration at City Hall as attendance suffered from so many competing demands on families at this busy time of year. However, this hasn't affected the large number of people who annually put Audubon Park on their list of Christmas activities – to drive or walk through our historic neighborhood to see the beautiful and festive home and street decorations that abound at this time of year. So the City is going

to have their own holiday decoration contest this year and the 4 categories are as follows: 1) Traditional 2) Best Use of Lights 3) Best Use of Inflatables 4) Best Entry Way. Winners will receive a yard sign and a dogwood ornament. The City has already begun decorating as Audubon Parkway has put up its lamp post wreaths and undoubtedly many more streets will soon follow suit!

The Garden Club encourages everyone to participate in the City holiday decoration contest by breaking out your holiday home and yard decorations to keep up this festive activity and bring joy both to residents and visitors alike...and truly make Audubon Park a winter wonderland that we can all be proud of!

Fall Brightside Clean Up Again Helps Beautify Audubon Park Entrance

On a brisk fall morning in mid-October, eight wonderful volunteers helped beautify the Preston Street entrance to Audubon Park by participating in the semi-annual Brightside Clean Up. Special thanks to District 10 Metro Council Member Pat Mulvihill and Legislative Aide Geoff Wohl for pitching in to help with this project, once again demonstrating their "hands-on approach" for bettering the lives of their constituents in our district! Many thanks as well to the other six park residents, under the leadership of Garden Club member Marie Eff, who collected 5 bags of litter from the entrance to our city.

Brightside sponsors these twice-yearly cleanups; the next will be scheduled around the third Saturday in April 2020. Please think about volunteering at this event which is part of the Week of Service promoted by the City of Louisville. It's a wonderful way to meet your neighbors and help with beautifying Audubon Park! Keep in mind that any student volunteers needing service hours are welcome to help... This project is coordinated by Garden Club member Marie Eff and we extend our gratitude for her time and effort!

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The Audubon Park Garden Club Extends an Invitation to Join

The Audubon Park Garden Club celebrated its 90th birthday – twice- this year! As part of the birthday celebration, Dr. Tom Owen, a well- known local historian and Archivist at the University of Louisville, presented a wonderful program on the history of Audubon Park at the Garden Club’s Fall Dinner program held at Audubon Country Club in mid-October. Evidently it was a rousing success as 75 Garden Club members and Audubon Park residents gathered to hear him speak. What made the event even more intriguing was the fact that Dr. Owen spent his early youth living on Robin Road in the Park so was a first- hand witness to many years of the city’s early growth. Interestingly, many longtime residents who grew up in the park (or just outside) learned information that they’d never known before about our community! Perhaps if there is enough interest, Dr. Owen can be persuaded to repeat his lecture for those park residents who missed the event.

As part of the 90th celebration of the Audubon Park Garden Club, we would like to invite everyone to consider joining the Garden Club. Membership is no longer restricted to Audubon Park residents and in recent years, we have seen several non-residents join as well as several husband/wife couples. The annual cost of membership is \$30 per individual and \$55 per couple. If you are interested in joining, please contact Membership Chair Janet Shumate at 636-0111.

Upcoming Garden Club Programs

The Garden Club will not be hosting a program in January 2020. However, the following programs are open to all residents and their guests and are held at Audubon Park City Hall, 3340 Robin Road, beginning at 1 p.m. (unless otherwise noted).

Monday, February 10, 2020: “*The Secret Life of Trees*” with guest speaker, Jacquelyn McGrail, a Master Gardener, Landscape Design Consultant, and Past President of the Rambler Garden Club. This

event, our potluck winter luncheon, is held at Audubon Baptist Church, 1046 Hess Lane at 11 a.m. Guests are welcome.

Monday, March 9, 2020: “*Azaleas and Rhododendrons*” with guest speaker Jeff Wallitsch of Wallitsch Nursery and Garden Center.

Tuesday, April 14, 2020: “*Hostas*” with guest speaker, Dr. Anne Cartwright from Hostas of Kentuckiana. This event also serves as the Spring Luncheon and Installation of Officers and is held at Audubon Park Country Club, 3265 Robin Road, at 11:45 am. There is a fee for the luncheon and reservations should be made in advance by contacting Grace Worful at 375-9041.

Monday, May 11, 2020: “*Waterfront Botanical Gardens*” will be a guided tour of the new botanical gardens located off River Road by educators from Waterfront Botanical Gardens. Those interested should meet at Audubon Park City Hall, 3340 Robin Road, at noon to carpool to the site.

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, 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*.

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- 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.
 - 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 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 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
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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.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Andrew Klump

What Does The Updated Forestry Code Mean For Me?



Throughout Audubon Park's history, the city always incorporated strong beliefs in a diverse and beautiful urban forest, whether it be through actual ordinances or by dedicated citizens looking to ensure the City's continued embrace with nature and

ever-important tree canopy. **One recent step we have taken is to follow Metro Louisville's lead and require homeowners to replace right of way trees. You do not have to replace private property trees, although that is highly encouraged.** Replacement is only one result from our adoption of a new and revised forest code. Below are the important changes and remaining policies that you need to know:

Where are right of way trees located?

Generally speaking, the right of way space begins at the street in front of your home and ends approximately around where the sidewalk is or would be. But depending on the street, the right of way space may go a little bit further. If there a tree is close to this area you need to apply for a permit and have the code enforcement officer determine if it is a right of way tree.

When do you need a permit?

You need a permit whenever you are pruning, trimming or removing any right of way tree, or performing any other tree maintenance in the right of way space.

What is the regular permit process?

(1) *Permit Request.* The property owner calls the City Hall Clerk or goes online to the City of Audubon Park Website under Forms/Sign Ups and checks the box for trimming of tree, removal of tree, or other tree maintenance. After all fields are filled, the permit application is submitted. The City Clerk, Code Enforcement Officer, and the Forest Board Chair will each receive a copy.

(2) *Right of Way Determination.* The code enforcement officer will determine whether the tree is in the right of way space and thus subject to Forest Code Regulation.

(3) *Consultation.* The Forest Board Chairperson or representative will contact the property owner to set up a visit to evaluate the tree, confirm the need for pruning or removal, determine a site for future replanting, and the type of tree to be planted. The property owner and the Chairperson will decide if the process can proceed or if further steps are necessary.

(4) *Approval.* **Online application submittal does not constitute approval.** Upon approval, the Chairperson will provide written notice to the property owner and the City Clerk that the process can proceed. If approved, City Clerk will issue officially signed permit. If the Chairperson determines that a permit is not appropriate written notice will be provided to the property owner and City Clerk. Again, the Forest Board has the ability to waive any of the standards to fit your circumstances.

(5) *Proof of Insurance.* The property owner must decide which company will remove the tree and must submit that company name to the City Clerk who will check the records for updated Workman's Comp and Liability insurance. If current insurance information is not available, the property owner has the option to work with the company to have the appropriate insurance sent or to choose a different company.

(6) *Issuance.* The City Clerk then issues the permit in writing.

(7) *Conspicuous Placement of Permit.* The permit must be displayed at the job site in such a manner that the permit is visible from the street.

What if I have a tree emergency?

If you have an emergency regarding a right of way tree, where a tree proves to be an imminent threat to property or person, you can call the Audubon Park Police at (502) 574-5471 to get approved for an emergency permit to remove the tree without first following all of the regular permit requirements.

What are the minimum requirements for replacing Right of Way trees?

All right of way trees that are removed are required to be replaced within one year, and all replacement right of way trees must grow to a mature height of at least 40 feet or more. This does not mean that you have to plant a large 40 foot tree, only that the tree must be capable of growing to 40 feet or more. However, depending on the circumstances the Forest Board can waive the time and height requirements.

Fortunately, the Forest Board has a grant program which frequently gives out replacement trees and will be working with you throughout this process to ensure that the replacement tree fits your situation.

Questions about this new code? Email me at AndrewKAudubon@gmail.com or contact the Forest Board.

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