




The Official Newsletter of The City of Audubon Park

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FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR WILLIAMS

Tony Williams

Hope everyone had a spectacular spring, kicked off by another excellent Dogwood Festival. I want to thank the Parks & Recreation Board and the volunteers that helped put on the 2019 Dogwood Festival along with our Forest Board, supporting City Council, Public Works, staff, police force, and the residents that participated by illuminating dogwood trees, homes, and landscaping.

The fiscal year 2020 budget, which takes effect on July 1st, was adopted on June 17th, following our Town Hall meeting of May 16th, and initial proposal and reading on May 20th. The ordinance should be reaching you by mail soon. Tax rates stayed the same for both property and insurance business.

All tax bills have been mailed and the due date for payment is July 1st (with a week or two grace added for bills affected by late delivery of PVA rolls).

The city entered into a new 5 year contract with Waste Management, with no increase in fees. The decision was made after receiving the sealed bids and taking into consideration the enclosed resident survey results which indicated a 91% satisfaction with Waste Management services.

It's been a rough start of the summer season for power outages in our neighborhood. It's disappointing that a service that we are extremely dependent on should encounter so many recent complications. After scheduling a meeting with LG&E, the arborist stated in August they will begin a neighborhood wide tree pruning service. The project should take take 5 to 6 weeks depending on weather and approximately 700 trees are set to be pruned. They will start with the lines along Hess Lane working south covering the lines from Robin to Crossbill. After that they will work from the Crossbill/Chickadee intersection out to Poplar Level Rd. Each of the sections should take approximately 2 weeks to complete and overall impact on Audubon Park limited to approximately a month. LG&E should be sending a mailer or a door hanger notice to the affected properties. New, taller utility poles may also be added in certain problematic areas. The taller poles in combination with tree pruning should allow for fewer power outages. Please keep city hall posted on any additional utility issues.

In an effort to support getting outside and leaving the tech distractions at home, the Parks & Recreation Board has been busy planning several Summer monthly outdoor movie nights along with yoga in the park on Saturdays. Plans have also been submitted for a natural looking playscape playground to be added to Cross Bill (Triangle) Park.

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The annual Independence Day parade will be held this year on Saturday, June 29th. Lineup begins at 9:30 AM at Oriole Park with the parade beginning at 10:00 AM. Be sure to decorate your bikes, scooters, wagons, strollers, etc. in patriotic red, white, and blue fashion.

Unfortunately, there will not be a city wide Block Party on Dove Road this year but I would instead encourage going back to individual streets hosting their own communal gathering prior to the beginning of the new school year.

Staying true to my word, several beautification improvements are complete including but not limited to: lamp and landscape lighting installation at Preston and Oriole entrances, landscaping at the Preston entrance, and new wooden garbage cans and dog waste stations in all the parks. Special thanks to Daniel Stephen, Jason Payne, Otto Mock, and Ed Seger in the assistance with these projects.

Please be mindful of blowing your leaves, branches, grass clippings, etc. out into the street. Your neighbors and the street stormwater waste drains would appreciate it if you properly disposed of them.

Finally, I want to thank Leah Netherland for her past service in her position as Forest Board Chair. She continues to be an invaluable asset to the city and I'm glad that she will continue to stay on the Forest Board.

Thanks for your confidence and support as we work together to continue to move our great city forward. Have a safe and fantastic summer!!!

FOREST BOARD NEWS

Michael Blum- Chairperson

As the summer months continue to grow hotter, it is important to remember that the first three years of a tree's life are critical to the long term health of the tree. Throughout these first three years after transplanting, it is essential that trees receive at least an inch of water per week in the area extending to the dripline of the tree. This means that supplemental watering is needed many weeks during the summer. During extended hot, dry periods, it is also beneficial to provide supplemental water to larger, more

established trees, including dogwoods. The Forest Board does provide water bags for street easement trees at no cost to homeowners for the first summer after planting a tree. If you planted a street easement tree last fall or this spring and did not receive a water bag, or if your water bag began to leak, please contact the Forest Board through the contact information below.

The permit application for pruning, planting, and removal of street easement trees has been updated on the city webpage. Permits are required for any work on city street easement trees and allow for the city to ensure tree companies are insured and to ensure the work being done will contribute to the overall health of our urban tree canopy. Processing a permit application may take up to two weeks, and working on street easement trees without an approved permit is subject to fine according to Code of Ordinances 11-99-01. Permit applications may also be found in City Hall.

Lastly, after serving as the Forest Board chair over the past three years, Leah Netherland is stepping down from the chairperson position, but will continue to serve as an active member of the Forest Board and meet with residents about street easement tree plantings. Her commitment to the environment and our neighborhood is tremendous and inspiring. During her time as chair, Leah and the Forest Board have made strides in fulfilling the Forest Board's mission of "maintaining a canopy of shade trees over all public ways of Audubon Park" through incentive programs, meeting with residents, encouraging healthy arboreal practices such as structural pruning and mulching, park tree care, and planting over 90 trees in the easements and parks of our neighborhood. In the spring newsletter, Leah highlighted many of the benefits of building our urban tree canopy. If you would like to plant a tree in the street easement in front of your house to help promote some of these ecological and environmental benefits or if you are interested in joining the Forest Board, please contact new chairperson Michael Blum through email, phone call, or text message at Michael.blum13@gmail.com or 502-396-4029.

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AUDUBON PARK POLICE

Chief Mike Minniear



As we are now in the summer months, this article will focus on how to register for various social media sites, update on crime, safety tips for the summer, and educate residents on the value of a doorbell or security camera. There have been twelve reported crimes in Audubon Park as of June 10th. Nine of the twelve crimes have

been solved. We had six nights of reported criminal activity such as cars being rummaged through, but nothing stolen separate from the reported crimes. As the Chief of Police, I personally review crime around Audubon Park and Jefferson County every day. This assists our officers in identifying individuals in Audubon Park we believe are here to commit a crime and keeps our crime rate extremely low. When we introduce ourselves to these individuals and advise them Audubon Park has a full-time police force, they are usually quick to exit your neighborhood. Sometimes they might even go to jail for warrants or can be locked up for being positively identified suspects to previous crimes.

We always strive for excellence in policing services but understand there is always room for improvement. If you have a complaint or compliment you can reach me by email mminniear@audubonparkky.org , 502-637-5066 Ext. 10 work and 502-523-6493 by cell. Your police force wants to be as transparent as possible and it starts with an open-door policy. I try to make it easy for you to reach me. Please use the following social media sites to be informed of all types of information in Audubon Park:

City of Audubon Park Official Page: Website www.audubonparkky.org . This is the most important site of them all. You can register for house watches, file for a permit, file a code enforcement complaint and get an Easement Tree Pruning or removal permit on this page. Contact information for the Mayor, Council

Members and the Police Officers are here as well. You can also stay educated by reading the monthly reports from the variou departments.

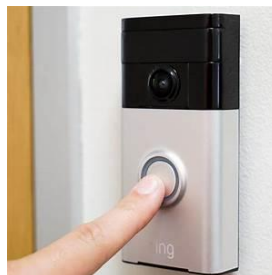
Facebook: @audubonparkKY is the official facebook page for the City of Audubon Park information, @AudubonParkPoliceDepartment for Audubon Park Police.

Next Door: Residents who haven't registered, please go to www.nextdoor.com to register. After you register, request to be in the Audubon Park group. Great information is shared by residents only on this site. Do not mistake the "Audubon" group for the "Audubon Park" group. The "Audubon" group on next door has a couple of thousand members, many whom do not live in Audubon Park. This site is free and one of my favorites.

Reach Alert: An urgent notification system, with email, text or voicemail options, for emergency and other alert messages. These alerts are limited to Audubon Park issues for residents. There is no cost to join "Reach Alert." To register, go to www.audubonpark.org click on the Forms/Sign-up tab then click on the "Notification Systems" on the drop down menu. Subscribe for "Reach Alert" on this page.

LENSAlert: Alert from Louisville Metro on emergencies. Go to www.audubonpark.org click on the Forms/Sign-up tab then click on the "Notification Systems" on the drop down menu. Subscribe for "LENSAlert" on this page.

Consider investing in a doorbell camera or security camera. These cameras allow you to monitor your property by receiving real time instant alerts on your phone, tablet, or computer as soon as motion is



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detected. They cost as little as \$80.00 and can be installed wired or battery operated. I recommend doing a hardwire installation, so you never have to worry about replacing or charging batteries. Two months ago, Audubon Park Police was able to take a suspect into custody while he was still at a house due to a battery-operated camera. Criminals are commonly identified from residents and business with cameras that record the crimes in progress which enables police to make an arrest with an increased chance of a conviction due to still pictures or video of the suspect committing the crime. They are also great for locating lost fur babies. The Ring series of cameras allows you to register on their site and join neighbors in sharing images or videos of your lost pet or one you may have found. You can use these images or videos to post on other social media sites shared in this newsletter.

Please understand when you look at the miniscule amount of crime committed in Audubon Park, it is not because of chance or luck. It is because your taxes pay for residents to have a 24/7 police force. **"Your Audubon Park Police Officers"** strive to provide the best police services to you.

You reside in the LMPD Sixth Division Patrol Area. We have a very good working relationship with them. The officers work hard to fight crime around where you live. There is always increased crime during the warm weather months. We have plans to address this in several ways when it happens. "Crime Prevention" can't be achieved without your cooperation. Please follow these tips to help the Audubon Park Police prevent crime:

- 1) **Lock your front door**
- 2) **Keep the entryways of fences on your property closed**
- 3) **Use Lighting at night around your house to protect your property**
- 4) **Do not leave anything in plain view in your vehicle and lock car doors**
- 5) **Never allow people into your house to use your phone**

- 6) **Close and lock garage doors**
- 7) **Register through Audubon Park webpage for house watch of your home when travelling**
- 8) **Keep your yard maintained**
- 9) **Empty mailbox and pick-up newspaper up from driveway everyday**

WATCH FOR CHILDREN PLAYING! The great weather means more kids will be out playing. Here are a few *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 the "Buddy System," and that it is best to be with a group of friends when going places without an adult.

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AUDUBON PARK GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Joanne Bader

Audubon Park Garden Club Turns 90!

The Audubon Park Garden Club was first organized in 1929. Its mission is "to encourage all residents of Audubon Park to promote, through cooperation, the improvement of Audubon Park as a garden and bird center and to participate in local, state, and national garden and horticultural programs." Over the years, members of the Garden Club have been instrumental in beautifying Audubon Park's many decorative flower beds and in promoting tree planting and tree diversity in the five communal parks.

While we know the Club turns 90 this year, no one has been able to determine its actual birthday. So the Garden Club has decided to celebrate this milestone twice – first in May at the annual May luncheon and again at the Fall Dinner in October. Although not confirmed, we hope to have a presentation by Louisville historian Tom Owen about the development of Audubon Park in those early days. The Fall dinner is open to any resident or guest, but will require reservations. Information about this event will be available in the September City newsletter and on the City's website. Membership in the Garden Club was amended in 2010 to allow non-residents to join which has been successful in keeping membership levels steady. Currently, there are 48 members including several couples.

Memorial Tree and Bench Programs

The Audubon Park Garden Club instituted a Memorial Tree and Bench Program in 2006 in conjunction with City Hall. Under these programs, residents or their families/friends can plant a memorial tree or they can sponsor a Memorial Bench in honor or memory of a loved one which would be located within one of the City's five community parks. Memorial trees can be planted for a cost of \$500 and a memorial plaque is provided.

Memorial benches currently cost \$2,500 each (although the cost may fluctuate depending on material costs and other market factors) which include a bronze plaque with the name of the person(s) to be honored. Application forms should be requested from the City Clerk. To date, Audubon Park has 15 memorial benches scattered within the five City parks. Enjoy a walk through the parks and think of those who have been honored as you stop and rest on their bench.

Yew Dell Botanical Gardens – A Louisville Area Jewel (and Summer Fun Idea for Kids)

At the Garden Club's May luncheon, guests were treated to a presentation by representatives of Yew Dell Botanical Gardens, an oasis of nature and beauty located in Crestwood, KY. Formerly the home, garden and commercial nursery of Theodore Klein, a renowned horticulturist and nurseryman, Yew Dell was purchased after his death in 1998 with funds raised by volunteers to restore and share its beauty with the community. The Yew Dell property is listed on the National Register of Historical Places and is a Preservation Partner Project of the Garden Conservancy, which is a national not-for-profit dedicated to saving America's most unique gardens. Theodore Klein was a noted horticulturist, recognized for his commercial nursery which focused primarily on evergreens, yews, and hollies – which were high demand when the US began to build lots of homes following WWII – all of which needed low maintenance landscaping.

In addition to its focus on display gardens and horticulture, Yew Dell has an extensive array of educational programs, tours, community events and more. For parents looking for something new and different to keep your kids engaged during the summer break, Yew Dell has numerous kid-oriented events such as scavenger hunts, backpacking, nature art camps, and the Fairy Forest Village that would appeal to kids of all ages. If interested, Yew Dell is located at 6220 Old LaGrange Road in Crestwood (502-241-4788) or on its website: www.yewdellgardens.org

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April Brightside Cleanup

The Garden Club, under the direction of Marie Eff, participated in the semi-annual Brightside Cleanup on Saturday, April 13th. Seven volunteers showed up to cleanup and beautify the City's western entrance on Preston Highway at Audubon Parkway on a beautiful spring morning. The group collected eight bags of trash including debris from under the railroad overpass. A second cleanup is typically scheduled for the second Saturday in October and we hope more volunteers will participate to keep our signature entrance to Audubon Park looking its best – especially now the entrance columns are lighted and new landscaping is in place. Thanks to all who volunteered in April!

Upcoming Garden Club Programs

The Garden Club hosts a monthly program series from September to May (excluding January) and goes on hiatus during the summer months. 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). Membership is no longer restricted to Audubon Park residents only....if you know of anyone interested in joining the Garden Club, please have them contact Membership Chair, Janet Shumate, at 636-0111 or Club President, Jane Jonczy, at 239-4468 for more information. Membership dues are \$30 per year for individuals and \$55 per couple. A full listing of Garden Club Programs for the upcoming year will be published in the September newsletter and can also be found on the city's webpage: www.audubonparkky.org in the Garden Club heading under the Community tab.

Reduce Your Use of Plastic!

The Audubon Garden Club has had discussions about the ever-increasing amounts of plastic that are overwhelming our oceans and landfills. Suggested options for decreasing personal use of plastics include:

- Using washable eating utensils rather than plastic utensils

- Using washable steel or paper straws instead of plastic
- Using steel water bottles with tap water
- Bringing a container from home for carryout or leftovers
- Bringing containers from home for bulk foods
- Using large cloth bags for groceries
- Using small cloth bags for produce
- Purchasing products with minimal packaging

Let us all do our part to make the world a safer and cleaner place for our kids and grandkids!

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. The return of spring birds is a special reminder to keep cats and others from straying. We have just installed 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.
- 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 call City Hall.
- 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.
- 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). 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 this so accidents don’t occur – you may be harder to see than you think!

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Andrew Klump



During the most recent election cycle, it became apparent that the residents of Audubon Park are concerned with the success and development of businesses along our western border of Preston Highway. Fortunately, businesses have recently opened, increasing the attractiveness and walkability of our lone commercial district. To spur connection between our community and our businesses, this spotlight article will showcase one of our Audubon Park businesses each quarter. Hopefully upon reviewing their stories, products, and services, you will consider supporting our local Audubon Park businesses, fostering the creation of an encouraging economic environment, heightening our standard of living.

Green Collar Studio



Let’s welcome to our neighborhood, Green Collar Studio. Proprietors Mike & Amy Kamer opened their store at 3139 Preston Highway, next to Vic’s Classic Bikes. Green Collar Studio focuses on providing vintage home furnishing from the 1950’s, 60’s & 70’s with an emphasis on Mid Century Modern design. Their inventory includes dressers, buffet’s, chairs, lamps, tables and much more that they scour the country to find.

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They have been in the business for 10 years and recently decided to make Audubon Park their new business home. Mike and Amy stated that "business has been very good since opening and we've been very pleased with our new location."

Green Collar Studio is open by appointment to allow for flexibility with their customer's schedule. Mike emphasized their flexibility noting, "we have many customers that like to browse after work so we want to be available to meet their schedule." Green Collar Studios inventory is available for viewing on Instagram and Facebook. Please follow them @greencollarstudio, where they occasionally post weekend open house hours on Instagram and Facebook.

To set up a time to see their selection in person, please call or text (502) 387-9657.

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, delivered 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.

- **Social media** pages, used to make announcements, schedule activities and events, exchange ideas, and promote dialogue. Two Facebook pages are in use: *Audubon Park City Hall*, the main civic page and *Audubon Park Police Department*, focusing on law enforcement and public safety. The *Nextdoor* network has also become a popular spot for household and personal postings and feedback.
- 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."
- 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**, listed on the Web calendar.
- Or, just dropping by **City Hall**, for information or an informal chat.

Please take advantage of all these resources for civic awareness and engagement.

State law also requires ordinances and some other official notices to be published, either by newspaper, or first-class direct mail. With current newspaper circulation, and rates, mailings are a much better choice – so you may see things like this delivered from time to time.

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