


The Official Newsletter of The City of Audubon Park

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FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR WILLIAMS

Tony Williams

Happy Holidays! I am excited to share our yearly recap of city happenings. 2021 has proved to be quite unique with both many opportunities and challenges alike.

Waste Management

Unfortunately, Waste Management is continuing to have staffing issues that is disrupting our sanitation services. The schedule for December is as follows:

- 12/7- Garbage and yard waste (no recycle)
- 12/14- All services
- 12/21- Garbage and yard waste (no recycle)
- 12/28- All services

We are waiting to see what or if any services will be missed in future months. Our best estimate is yard waste will not be interrupted in the future, but recycling could continue to go to every other week until staffing issues are resolved. We will do our best with updates as we receive them from Waste Management. Please check our "Audubon Park City Hall" official page, or for those not on Facebook, look for strategically placed yard signs in the neighborhood. Our contact for Waste Management is Andy Reynolds whose e-mail is kreynol2@wm.com.

Kindness to All

The Audubon Park resident flower bandit was one of the brightest spots of year 2021. Those who have been surprised with a Topo Chico bottle containing a flower have experienced the true power of kindness. And there is nothing better when a neighbor spreads joy throughout the neighborhood.

Social Events

We were able to squeeze in two fantastic social events during a window when COVID-19 threats were at their lowest. The Independence Day Parade and Auktoberfest were both amazing, well attended events. Let's keep our fingers crossed for the 51st annual dogwood festival in April 2022 and special thanks to all of our volunteers that made these events a success!

Sidewalk Improvements

Audubon Park officials have been hard at work the last few months making our neighborhood a safer place to walk. You may notice a few sections of sidewalks have been removed and replaced or shaved. For at least the last 25 years, it has been the homeowner's responsibility to maintain and repair the sidewalk. The responsibility remains unchanged but since many of the sidewalks were in immediate need of repair, a one-time grant to help selected homeowners pay for sidewalk repairs was issued. There is no guarantee of future repairs from

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the city by way of grants but hopefully money can be set aside from future city budgets to continue to fix the worst areas.

City Beautification

New physical upgrades you may notice are the 3 monarch butterfly waystations in Oriole, Robin, and Curlew Parks. Special thanks to Amy Shelton and Marlon Obando Solano for installing native plants and recently completely reviving the Curlew Park monarch waystation. Looking forward to the pollinator paradises that should bloom in the spring.

12 new entry signs have been installed at every entry point into Audubon Park. The new signs replaced the existing, outdated signs. The second phase of sign replacement has recently commenced where any stop sign and traffic sign not attached to a street sign is going to be removed and replaced.

The Little Free Library was expanded a few months ago at the corner of Wren and Audubon Parkway. Special thanks to the Thompson family and librarian steward Amanda Thompson. The Little Free Library is a book/magazine/DVD/CD exchange for adults and children.

Local MSD Work

Drainage improvements from MSD have recently been completed at the end of Eagle Pass and Hess Lane along with an area on Chickadee. The city engineer is currently working on a master plan with MSD on several other drainage issue areas in Audubon Park. The completion of future MSD projects will depend on funding and MSD priorities.

Upcoming City Elections

It's been a very busy and productive three years and I look forward to my fourth and final year as Mayor. Next year we will need at least 7 residents to fill offices of Mayor and all six Council seats. City Council is a 2 year term and Mayor is a 4 year term. We also are always in need of volunteers for future civic events such as Dogwood Festival. Please consider running for office or volunteering in the near future.

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 but most importantly have a safe, healthy and Happy New Year!

FOREST BOARD NEWS

Aaron Morris- Chairperson

It's planting season! Late fall is the best time to plant new trees, so they have time to get established before the hot summer sets in. This fall the forest board plans to plant seventeen trees. Some of them are replacements for trees that have come down, and some are entirely new trees to add to our beautiful urban forest canopy. Planting these trees is an investment in our future, so that the generations to come will know the same beautiful Audubon Park that we do today.

Over my years in Audubon Park I've been surprised to learn just how many families have other family members living in the park. If my family were to live here the rest of my life I would still be "the new guy." Many of us live in homes that are more than one hundred years old. When you live in an old house, you realize that you never truly "own" it – you're just the caretaker for however many years you're fortunate enough to live there. The house was there before you moved in, and it will remain when you depart.

Likewise, our urban forest is a responsibility we inherit from those who came before us – those who did the work planting and caring for the trees we enjoy today. Without them, we wouldn't have the cooling shade, the beautiful fall foliage, and the bright greening of spring that we enjoy in Audubon Park year after year. I consider it a privilege to serve on the forest board and continue the long line of stewardship that has resulted in the beautiful neighborhood we enjoy today. I feel good knowing that someone will come along after me and continue this work well into the future.

Because we know we will have an unbroken line of care for our urban forest, we have the luxury of doing things other areas might not be able to. We can think very long term. We can make plans that might take generations to come to fruition. When we

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completed our tree inventory last year, we found that Audubon Park has a lot of oak and maple trees. More trees of different species increase the genetic diversity of a forest, and makes for a healthier environment more resistant to disease. For this reason, we're planting pecans, sassafras, tulip poplars, and tupelo trees this fall – to increase that genetic diversity for the next generation of trees in our forest.

We can also make long term plans to bring back whole species. The American Chestnut tree once dominated forests in the Eastern US, and chestnuts were an important food for people and animals alike. It was considered the finest variety of chestnut tree in the world. The species was devastated by chestnut blight, a disease that came from Chinese chestnut trees introduced into North America. Between 3 and 4 billion American chestnut trees were destroyed in the first half of the 20th century after the disease was discovered in 1904.

The loss of the American Chestnut was a loss of part of our American heritage. The Christmas carol reminds us of when there could be "chestnuts roasting on an open fire" but they were also an important food source for settlers moving west and the livestock they brought with them. Native Americans counted on chestnuts to feed wildlife that were hunted as game. But now we're working to bring the chestnut back! Several efforts are underway to breed and develop a blight-resistant version of the American Chestnut and re-establish it across its traditional range up and down the Appalachian chain. We have several of these hybrid chestnuts right here in Audubon Park as we do our part in the long-term effort to bring back this important part of our history.

This effort will take time – trees grow slowly, and it might be years before we know if these chestnut trees are immune to the blight. But because we can rely on consistent stewardship of our urban forest from the past, to today, and into the future we can think long term about our neighborhood, our forest, and our environment.

You can reach me at aaronlane@gmail.com or text me at 502-641-7810 to talk trees!

AUDUBON PARK POLICE

Assistant Chief Teddy Laun



The holiday season has arrived! We at Audubon Park PD are as excited as anyone to join the hustle and bustle and watch as all of the beautiful decorations begin to be displayed. Every year, we like to give a few reminders and tips to help keep everyone and their

belongings safe.

While out shopping, it is easy to become distracted. Take notice of the people who are around you and park in well lit areas if you are shopping after dark. Don't overburden yourself with packages and parcels. Juggling packages and large purses that are difficult to handle can make you appear to be an easy target for thieves. Keeping a small amount of cash and a credit card in your pocket is a better option than carrying a large handbag and is not attractive to purse snatchers. Once you have made it back to your vehicle, stow your packages and other valuables out of sight in the trunk. Once you arrive home with your purchases, remove them from the vehicle and take them into your home.

This year we have had unprecedented amounts of financial fraud and identity theft. Much of it was related to unemployment benefits during the pandemic. During the holiday season it is a good idea to check your bank and credit card statements frequently. Keep all of your receipts and compare them to your statements. Credit card theft usually begins as a very small charge that is used to test a credit card or debit card and then turns into much larger charges being placed later.

Financial Institutions will never call you and ask you to give your personal information or account numbers. If you are in doubt, hang up and call the bank directly using a telephone number that you know belongs to the bank. Utility companies, the IRS and law enforcement agencies will NEVER request

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call you and demand that you pay fines, settle back taxes or make overdue payments over the phone and they will NEVER request payment in the form of gift cards. If you give a scammer your credit card information or numbers from a gift card, there is little that law enforcement can do to protect you and the bank will not refund your money.

There are so many types of scams and fraudulent activity being used that it would be impossible to list them all. If it seems too good to be true, it is! If you are in doubt, hang up and call the bank or business directly. No legitimate business will be upset that you are verifying who they are before you give them any information or payment.

Everyone's schedule is going to be so busy in the coming weeks with holiday celebrations and time spent with loved ones and friends. Take a few extra seconds each night to check your vehicles. Make sure that you do not have any valuables, weapons or medications that are visible through the windows and that your vehicle is locked. If you have security cameras, try to park your vehicle in an area that is visible on the camera footage.

Our officers will be stepping up patrols and keeping an eye out for people who are trying to steal the joy of the holiday season and your belongings. If you need police assistance, you can call the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office dispatch any time day or night at (502)574-5471 or dial 911 and an officer will be notified immediately.

We wish you all happiness, health and peace at this wonderful time of year and look forward to seeing all of you around the Park.

AUDUBON PARK GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Joanne Bader

Get in the Holiday Spirit by Decorating

As many of you all will have already heard, the City of Audubon Park will be hosting several decorating contests for the holiday season. The Garden Club sponsored this competition for many years and has passed those reins on to the City. But the Garden Club would like to add their voice to encouraging all

residents to decorate your homes and yards to delight the many families that drive through Audubon Park each holiday season to view our winter wonderland!

There are 6 categories this year: 1) Best Nativity Scene 2) Best Traditional Home Decorations 3) Best Entry Way 4) Most Lit Home 5) Best Lawn Ornaments 6) Best Use of Inflatables. Unfortunately, there will not be a Community Holiday celebration at City Hall this year due to COVID-19, so we ask that you celebrate safely at home and by participating in the decoration contest. See enclosed flier for additional details.

Brightside Cleanup a Success in October

The Garden Club, under the coordination of club member Marie Eff, enjoyed a spectacular and cool fall day to host its semi-annual Brightside cleanup on Saturday, October 16th. Each year, in spring and fall, resident volunteers work to clean weeds and trash from the City's western entrance at Audubon Parkway and Preston Highway as well as further along the Preston Corridor. Eight volunteers, including help from Nicole George (District 21 Metro Council) and Geoff Wohl (District 10 Metro Council) worked hard and gathered 8 large bags of debris, making a huge difference to the appearance of this area. We really appreciate the willingness of our volunteers to make time in their busy schedules to help make Audubon Park a better place! The next volunteer cleanup will be held the third Saturday of April, 2022.

Upcoming Garden Club Programs

Despite a slow start to our program year in September and October, which had to be cancelled due to Covid concerns, some intrepid Garden Club members were able to tour the Creasey Mahan Nature Preserve in November. Upcoming programs in 2022 are scheduled as follows and are open to anyone wanting to attend:

February 14, 2022 (Monday) "***Composting – Why Should I and How do I***" with guest speaker and master gardener Jacquelyn McGrail. This program will be held at Audubon Baptist Church, 1046 Hess

Lane, at 11 am during the club's Winter potluck luncheon. All are welcome.

March 14, 2022 (Monday) "**Hostas**" with guest speaker Dr. Anne Cartwright from Hostas of Kentuckiana. This program will be held at Audubon Park City Hall, 3340 Robin Road, at 1 pm.

April 12, 2022 (Tuesday) "**Monarchs and Milkweeds – Supporting our Native Butterflies**" with guest speaker and Audubon Park resident, Amy Shelton. This program will be held at Audubon Country Club, 3265 Robin Road, at 11:45 am as part of our Spring Luncheon. There is a charge for the luncheon and reservations are needed. Contact Grace Worful at 338-9075 for more information.

Winter Means Extra Consideration for Our Bird Friends

Recent stories in the newspapers seem to call for a colder and snowier winter this year. Please be good stewards to the bird population in Audubon Park by keeping your birdfeeders both clean and full. Remember that providing a variety of bird food, from seeds to suet, helps attract a larger and more varied bird population! And if you have plants in your gardens with seed heads, please leave them intact until winter has passed. This is increasingly important as nature's supply of food dwindles during the winter months. Please try to keep your feeders cleaned and sanitized between fillings; we don't want a repeat of the mystery illness that harmed so many birds earlier in the year! And last, but not least, please provide a source of fresh, clean water if you can! Your feathery friends will be very appreciative!

If anyone is interested in learning more about joining the Garden Club, please contact Janet Shumate at 636-0111.

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 your 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.
- 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. The link for a house watch request is: <https://www.audubonparkky.org/house-watch-request.html>

- 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.
- There is a link at our website under "Links" where you can "Report A Problem" to MSD regarding stormwater waste issues.
- 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. Trash can only be set out the day prior to pickup and must be returned by the evening following. Remember, the green cans should not be visible from the street.
- 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.
- 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 2020-2021 is \$40,500. 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.
- 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, concern, or comments, please feel free to call, text or email her at 502-931-0790 or amt924@hotmail.com.
- There are a handful of homes still not in compliance with Jefferson County Louisville Ordinances 97.011 and 97.012 properly displaying street number addresses. Please make sure your home has street numbers of at least four inches in height and in a color distinguishable from its background placed on the front of the dwelling and is free and clear of any obstructions hindering clear visibility.

COMMUNICATIONS

The City of Audubon Park is committed to informing and encouraging 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, and email subscriber list.
- 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: ***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, as they are the only official social media pages from the City.
- **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!