




The Official Newsletter of The City of Audubon Park

Tony Williams, Mayor
Janette Mercer, City Clerk
Teddy Laun, Police Chief

City Hall: 3340 Robin Road
 637-5066

www.AudubonParkKY.org
 Audubon Park City Hall



City Council:

<i>Michael Hartman</i>	<i>Madeline Bozeman</i>
<i>Daniel Stephen</i>	<i>Austin Schwenker</i>
<i>Andrew Klump</i>	<i>Elyse Shackleton</i>

Issue 100

December 2022

FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR WILLIAMS

Tony Williams

Happy Holidays! A new Mayor and City Council is set to take office at the beginning of 2023. Congratulations to Madeline Bozeman as Mayor for the next 4 years. Also, congrats to Austin Schwenker on his third term, Michael Hartman and Elyse Shackleton on their second term, and Brenda Hartman, Joe Brenner, and Pete Becker on their first term winning the election and serving for the next two years as City Council members. Special thanks to outgoing council members Andrew Klump for his six years of service and Daniel Stephen for his two years of service as city council member and 7 years of volunteering and organizing parks and rec events such as Dogwood Festival, Independence Day Parade, Auktoberfest, and for his assistance on a majority of the completed projects over the last four years.

Improvements Over The Last 4 Years

I think its important to share some of our successes over the last 4 years and where some of the taxpayer money went and where a lot of free volunteer time was spent. There are many things I am proud of over the last 4 years but I think the most important accomplishment was the re-paving of the roads. We made a decision to re-pave the roads when oil was at an all-time low in 2020 and the asphalt index was at 477.15. Fast forward to

today where the asphalt index is now up to 768.33. With the increase in labor and materials, it is safe to say we saved Audubon Park over \$200,000, just on paving the roads.

We received a record amount of grants in the last four years totaling \$535,050.47. The breakdown is as follows: ARPA \$391,752.86, CRF \$119,033, KLC Liability \$9000, Taser \$8690, District 10 NDF \$4433.61, and KLC Workers Comp \$2141. These grants helped pave the way for many of the recent noticeable physical improvements. We also have 2 other grants currently in the works. One is with Parkway Village for \$19,119.04 and the other is an NDF Grant with District 10 for \$33,458.32. These 2 grants will fund 11 new radios to be used by our police department. We were also able to update our cable franchise agreement that has netted our City an extra \$7000 every year since its implementation.

Some other accomplishments that are worth mentioning but not limited to: entrance column restoration, power supplies for entrance electric lamp post lighting, and outdoor outlets installation. Professional landscaping installed at the two traffic circles and at the two signature entrances. A new, raised stone landscaping bed was installed at the Oriole entrance. Granite decorative pavers were laid at City Hall, at monarch waystations, and at floral beds. Old, unsightly garbage cans in the parks have

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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. Fire hydrants are now restored and repainted. A long-awaited utility tree trimming project was completed by LG&E to help ease the frequency of power outages along with several transformer and equipment upgrades. A drain cleanout at the end of Henderson Park and Wren Road was emptied removing nearly two full dump trucks of dirt, debris, leaves, and rubbish. Tire and infant swings were installed and re-enforced in Wren, Oriole and Crossbill Parks along with added playground mulch. A water fountain was installed (and paid for by an NDF grant from Councilman Mulvihill) at Crossbill Park. The City's code of ordinances was finally updated to conform to the last twenty-five years of new law and is now in a keyword searchable format online. The City's employee handbook and internal procedures have also been updated. Many forms including permits are now digitized and are fillable forms at our website. Property taxes can now be paid online and with a credit card or debit card. Seventeen board appointments have been filled. 3 monarch butterfly waystations in Oriole, Robin, and Curlew Parks have been restored (thank you Marlon Obando Solano and Amy Shelton). Water hookups in all 5 parks has been completed. 12 new entry signs have been installed at every entry point into Audubon Park. All stop signs and street name signs have been removed and replaced. The Little Free Library was expanded (thanks Amanda Thompson family). LED bulbs were installed in every fixture inside and outside of city hall along with timers. New garage doors with electronic openers, a split mini duct HVAC unit, and electrical upgrades were all installed at the city garage. A new Scag riding mower and new police vehicle was purchased. A new deck was constructed, installed, and stained (special thanks to Realm Construction) along with stairway lighting to the Police department. Police squad room and breakroom renovations (thanks again to Realm Construction) along with new painting and flooring is completed. New painting and flooring in the Police Chief, Assistant Police Chief, Clerk, Mayor, and Detectives office (special thanks to Daniel Stephen,

Detective O'Neil, Officer Barto, and Ed Seger in their help on several City Hall projects) which is now finalized. VOIP phone upgrades have been executed allowing call forwarding to cell phones of City Hall staff increasing responsiveness (thanks Mike Hardy family). A new privacy fence and state of the art security cameras were remove and replaced at City Hall. A concrete patio was poured at the back of City Hall and accessorized with outdoor furniture. Concrete was also poured into a previous large, dirt circle allowing additional parking in the parking lot.

MSD v-drains drainage improvements are finished at Hess/Eagle Pass, Hess/Sora, Hess/Chickadee, Hess/Meadowlark Robin Road, Valley Drive. New drains on Valley Drive, Audubon Parkway/Preston, Oriole, Cardinal Drive, and Robin Road.

New crossing improvements at the 5-way stop have concluded (thanks Mitchell Kersting) along with new, reflective and noticeable thermoplastic crosswalk paint and new thermoplastic paint at every stop sign.

No city the size of Audubon Park could survive without the "behind the scenes" dedication of our employees that we've come to depend on in City Hall. I'd like to recognize several of them by name, and hopefully introduce them to new residents or those who might be unaware of their contributions:

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 Teddy Laun and Assistant Chief Cheri Bower, 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.

Code Enforcement Officer Otto Mock, who upholds and enforces our code of ordinances.

Mechanic and handyman Ed Seger who saves the city money in many ways including vehicular maintenance and other valuable building updates to City Hall.

City engineer Mark Adams, who was instrumental in all the recent MSD drainage improvements along with his oversight on the sidewalks, crossings, and safety improvements.

City archivist and website administrator Laura Kelty.

And, last but not least, city attorney Keith Larson.

These individuals wear many hats in a city the size of Audubon Park and I am very thankful for each one of them as the city could not properly function without them. It has been my pleasure to know and work with these individuals the last four years. Thank you for all your hard work!

Current Sidewalk Improvements

The sidewalk repair project is now complete with the latest repairs on Robin, Dove, Thrush, and Chickadee being resolved. The ARPA grant money has been exhausted so no more sidewalk repairs will be made in 2022. 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 the city by way of grants, but I am going to recommend to the next administration to implement a 50/50 cost split with any homeowner that wants their sidewalk or a section of their sidewalk replaced in accordance with the new sidewalk safety plan.

Current Sign Project

The sign project is being wrapped up. There are a few miscellaneous signs that are still being replaced and there is one, new entry sign that will be placed at Eagle Pass and Audubon Parkway in the upcoming

months along with landscaping and landscaping lights to light up the new entry sign. Many of you have asked about purchasing the old street signs. The only fair and legal way to do that is public auction. Please see the last page of the Newsletter and come to our auction at City Hall, 3340 Robin Road on the 12th of December at 7pm.

Current Drainage Projects

MSD is working on replacing two drains on Oriole Drive between Hess Lane and Audubon Parkway. This is at no extra cost to Audubon Park taxpayers.

Current Waste Management News

If any of your garbage, recycling, or yard waste gets missed due to service issues, Andy Reynolds is who you need to contact. His phone number is 502-931-2616 and his e-mail is kreynol2@wm.com. There is also a website where you can check for any service issues: <https://www.wm.com/us/en/mywm/notifications> Waste Management should have switched your 65 gallon recycling carts with 96 gallon recycling carts. If they haven't made the recycling can switch, please make sure you reach out to Mr. Reynolds.

Home Stretch

It's been an extremely productive 4 year term as your Mayor. I'm very grateful to several of you that have personally reached out to me thanking me for my service. I also want to sincerely thank all of our volunteer board members and civic volunteers that have worked our awesome city events. My final thoughts are the following: Let's all continue to be a good Audubon Park citizens. Don't be that person that blows leaves into the street or that person that has to go to Nextdoor or Facebook to complain about something. If you don't like something about Audubon Park or want it changed, then either run for office, attend a few council meetings, or contact the mayor or city council. Take care of your lawn. Take care of your trees. Take care of your landscaping. Take care of your home. Be sure to volunteer for events. And finally, be kind to your neighbors. Trust me, our home values and standard of living will continue to go up if we all do these things! Enjoy your holidays but most importantly have a safe, healthy and Happy New Year!!

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FOREST BOARD NEWS

Aaron Morris- Chairperson

Winter 2022 Audubon Park Forest Board Newsletter

The leaves are on the ground and the thermometer says that winter has come early to Audubon Park. While our trees might look dormant and bare – they’ve already done much of the work to get them ready for spring!

While we’re preparing for the holidays, our trees have already grown all of the flower buds and shoots of new growth to be ready for the longer days and higher temperatures that will inevitably arrive.

Just like acorns and other seeds, these shoots and flower buds already contain all the stored energy they need to bloom, blossom and grow next spring. That high energy content is why they’re so valuable to birds, squirrels and other animals over the winter – as a food source to sustain them through the long winter.

The easiest place to see this future growth is on our dogwoods. Our dogwood trees are especially important to us here in Audubon Park as a part of our history and our neighborhood character. We celebrate the dogwood festival every year, and our lawns and parks feature the decorative trees prominently.

If you look closely at your dogwoods, you’ll already see the round buds that will become white, pink and rose flowers. Look even closer and you’ll see the little cones of tightly rolled leaves are the tips of twigs. These will become new growth for the tree once temperatures rise again. The tree has already created all these structures – the spring bloom is predetermined and already in place. Next year’s bloom was determined by this summer’s growth, rainfall and conditions.

Like a lot of us, Audubon Park’s dogwoods have had a tough couple of years. Late snows, higher than average temperatures, delayed autumns and inconsistent rainfall have all taken their toll. So has the anthracnose fungus, leaf blight and a powdery

mildew – all of which particularly target our dogwoods.

Under normal circumstances a healthy tree can fight off these ailments like a person can fight off a cold. But combine a couple of these ailments along with poor environmental conditions and inconsistent rainfall and a tree might be in trouble. This is why we’ve seen several of our dogwoods in our parks and lawns suffering over the past few years.

All is not lost, however! Over the past two years we’ve been working with our city forester to aggressively bolster our dogwood’s defenses. We’re not taking the normal route of applying fungicides and chemicals to the trees either. These commercial treatments have their place in arboriculture, but we’ve taken a different path. Instead of using chemical treatments that wear off with time, we’re focusing on strengthening the trees themselves. We’re applying soil and leaf treatments designed to make the tree itself healthier and heartier so that it can better fight off the pathogens and better weather adverse conditions.

It takes years to see the full results – trees are slow growing and each season is a whole year long. So far the results have been much more than we could have hoped for. While we have lost several dogwoods in the parks, it’s far fewer than we expected. And many that we thought were doomed have been revived and are thriving. We’ll be replacing some – but far fewer than what we could have been facing. So far the plan is working wonderfully and we’re excited about the future results.

So as you prepare for the holiday season, go outside and take a close look at some of our dogwoods. Examine the leaf sprouts and flower buds that will soon be beautiful flowers and new green growth on our trees. Spring will be here before you know it and with a little bit of help from us, our dogwoods and other trees will be ready to shine for the dogwood festival this year, and for many years to come!

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The Forest Board would like to take this opportunity to thank Tony Williams for his service and to reflect on our accomplishments while he has been Mayor.

We have been able to expand our tree planting efforts and to initiate new tree maintenance programs because of the budget that has been approved the last several years by this Mayor and the City Councils. During previous administrations our budget was generally limited to grants and generous donations by residents. For the past several years we have requested and been granted a generous yearly budget designated specifically for responsible forest management. This has allowed us to plan ahead and to develop relationships with nurseries and tree professionals.

- We now have an updated Forestry Code that protects our easement, park, and public trees.
- We now designate part of our budget each year to have arborists prune in the parks to improve tree health and avoid more catastrophic damage during storms.
- The treatment of some of our Ash trees was already underway when Mayor Williams took office, but since then funding has been secured for ongoing treatment.
- We have finally completed the long-anticipated project of providing a water supply for trees in each park.
- We have been able to initiate and expand many cooperative projects between homeowners and the City.
- We have been able to offset homeowner cost for various planting and pruning activities.

With Tony Williams as Mayor the Forest Board has become an integral part of the City of Audubon Park! We have truly appreciated your passionate support and encouragement. Thanks, Tony!!

If you would like to consider a new tree along the street in your yard, please reach out to me! We

would love to add you to the planting list for next year, or maybe even this year if we have trees available. The Forest Board will work with you to select a tree of your choice, prepare the planting site, and even handle planting the tree at the appropriate time of year following best practices to give your new tree the best possible start.

Tree planting is one of the main priorities of your Forest Board so we want to make it as easy as possible! All you have to do is choose your tree, and then enjoy it! Feel free to call or text me at 502-641-7810, or email me at aaronlane@gmail.com and we can get started! I also encourage you to talk to your neighbors about available spots for new trees – we’ve unfortunately lost several trees to storms, disease or conditions over the past year, and we’re eager to get more trees in the ground.

We enjoy the beautiful green neighborhood we have today because the people who came before us planned ahead, thought long term and planted trees for the future. Won’t you consider doing the same thing today for all our future residents?

AUDUBON PARK POLICE

Chief Teddy Laun



This year has really flown by. Our officers have had such wonderful time during the Auktoberfest and got the chance to show off our new Dodge Durango. We love our new look and literally had residents dancing in the streets as we added a little twist to our Halloween patrol.

Daylight Savings time has begun and with that, there are more hours of darkness. The nighttime hours have always been prime time for people looking for opportunities to take the property of others. You can help protect yourself by making a new routine at night. When you check to make sure the doors to your house are secure, take a few extra seconds to hit the lock button on your automobile key fobs. The majority of thefts from vehicles happen when car

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doors are left unlocked and it happens very quickly. Don't leave valuables in view in your vehicle. Purses, wallets, cash, electronics, medications and packages are all attractive to thieves. If they can see those things when they look into a car window, it becomes worth the added risk of breaking a window to take your items. If Audubon Park has residents that are taking these precautions, our city will become a less attractive target.

With additional hours of darkness, visibility for motorists decreases. If you are a walker, jogger or dog walker, take a few steps to make your time outdoors a little safer. Wear light colored or reflective clothing or vests. Carry or wear a light that can be easily seen. There has been a lot of work done to improve the sidewalks in Audubon Park. We encourage residents to use the sidewalks instead of walking in the roadway. This can help avoid a tragic accident and we want everyone to be safe.

It is so hard to believe that the Holiday Season will begin in just a few weeks. It is a beautiful time of year in Audubon Park. If you will be traveling and would like to request a house watch, go to the city's website Audubonparkky.org and select the Forms tab. You can submit your house watch request with just a few clicks online. Our officers will check your house while you are away and notify you or your emergency contact if there are any issues. This service is available to residents all year round. We are happy to be able to provide you with a little added peace of mind when you are away from home.

As the year draws to an end, it is a sad time and an exciting time. We are sad to see Tony Williams finish his term as the Mayor of Audubon Park. He has been a great supporter of the police department and so many things have been accomplished in city hall and in the community. We are sure that all of you have seen the work taking place and notice the improvements. Our Council members have also been very supportive of the efforts of the police department. We appreciate our council and the many ways that they help the police department become better. Mayor Williams, Councilman Daniel Stephen and Councilman Andrew Klump, thank you

for your service to the community and for your support. You will be missed. Although these community leaders are leaving us, we are very excited to work with our new Mayor and our new and returning Councilmembers.

It is our goal to work hard every day to provide outstanding service to the residents of Audubon Park. If we can assist you in any way, please call me at City Hall at (502)637-5066 ext 310 or you can reach out on the Audubon Park Police Department Facebook page. If you need an immediate response from an Audubon Park officer, please call the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office dispatch at (502)574-5471 and officer will be notified promptly. Enjoy your time with family and remember that we at the Audubon Park Police Department are here to help you. Happy Holidays to all!

AUDUBON PARK GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Joanne Bader

Let's Get the City Decorated for Christmas!

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 several 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

Nevertheless, the Garden Club encourages everyone to break 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!

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Fall Brightside Clean Up Again Helps Beautify Park Entrance

On a crisp and cool fall morning in late-October, four hardy volunteers helped beautify the Preston Street entrance to Audubon Park by participating in the semi-annual Brightside Clean Up. Three bags of trash were collected around the entrance on Preston Highway under the leadership of Garden Club member Marie Eff, who spearheads this project twice a year. Having been absent myself at this latest effort, I don't know whether the relatively small number of bags of trash collected reflected fewer volunteers or a lessening of trash in the area; hopefully the latter!

Brightside sponsors these twice-yearly cleanups; the next will be scheduled around the third Saturday in April 2023. 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!

The Audubon Park Garden Club Extends an Invitation to Join and to Attend Upcoming Programs

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 \$35 per individual and \$65 per couple. If you are interested in joining, please contact Membership Chair Janet Shumate at 636-0111.

The Garden Club will not be hosting a program in January 2023. 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 13, 2023: "*Hellebores*" with guest speaker, Dr. Anne Cartwright with the group Hostas of Kentuckiana. This event, our potluck winter luncheon, is held at Audubon Baptist Church, 1046 Hess Lane at 11 a.m. Guests are welcome.

Monday, March 13, 2023: "*Good Native Trees and Shrubs*" with guest speaker Michael Laughlin, Master Gardener.

Tuesday, April 11, 2023: "*Gardens of Churchill Downs*" with guest speaker, Matt Bizzell, the Director of Horticulture at Churchill Downs. This event also serves as the Spring Luncheon and Installation of Officers and is held at Audubon 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 8, 2023: "*Whitehall Tour*" will be a guided tour of local historic home, Whitehall, and its gardens which is located at 3110 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY 40206. Those interested should meet in the parking lot of Audubon Country Club, 3265 Robin Road, at a time to be announced to carpool to the site. Look for further details in the March 2023 City newsletter.

Winter Clean Up Tips

Recent frigid weather reminds us that winter is basically upon us even in November. Following are several tips to get your yard and garden ready for winter and to give you a head start for the spring:

- Lawns should be raked and mowed ahead of winter. If leaves are left on grass, they can compact and provide a breeding ground for fungus or other leaf diseases (not to mention they look messy!)
- Mulch around trees to within 3 -6 inches from the trunk (leaves can be helpful here) so that the mulching materials will help retain moisture and act as a thermal blanket. Likewise, mulching in flower beds helps allow bulbs and perennials to stay dormant if we get warmer temps in January or February.
- Don't fertilize perennials and woody plants – that will just force growth and winter kill. If pruning is needed, wait till after the plants have become dormant.

- If we lack rain or snow during late fall and early winter, try to keep newly planted trees or shrubs well mulched and watered. This will help them thrive as they are most vulnerable in the early days following planting and the surrounding ground may wick water away from them.
- Bring in houseplants before the average frost date (although this is likely too late if you haven't already done this).
- Detach hoses after late watering to prevent damage from freezing water which can destroy them.

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.

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- 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. Any mattresses or upholstered furniture set out for pickup must be wrapped in plastic. You are allowed one large item for junk pickup per week such as a stove, hot water heater, furniture, etc. If any of your garbage, recycling, or yard waste gets missed due to service issues, Andy Reynolds is who you need to contact. His phone number is 502-931-2616 and his e-mail is kreynol2@wm.com. There is also a website where you can check for any service issues: <https://www.wm.com/us/en/mywm/notifications>
 - 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 2022 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.

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- **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.



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