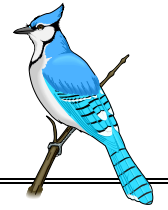





# The Official Newsletter of The City of Audubon Park



Tony Williams, Mayor  
Janette Mercer, City Clerk  
City Hall: 3340 Robin Road  
637-5066  
[www.AudubonParkKY.org](http://www.AudubonParkKY.org)  
 Audubon Park City Hall



City Council:

Jennifer Kleier	Madeline Bozeman
Brittney Gorter	Austin Schwenker
Andrew Klump	Stephanie George

Issue 90

June 2020

## FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR WILLIAMS

*Tony Williams*

I remember attending a road meeting hearing on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014 at Audubon Elementary where I watched a presentation on the road plan. The presentation projected the cost to re-pave all the roads at \$1.5 million dollars. After experiencing several subsequent years of small fixes, our road conditions were one of the main reasons that motivated me to run for Mayor in 2019.

At the same road presentation, I recall being presented with a 10 year loan cost projection of 5% interest. Fast forward to 2020 where our city, with the support of council, was able to negotiate a road loan rate of only 3.15%. The total cost of the roads that were just repaved was \$307,757.39. Our city will only owe \$91,687.33 or less after this fiscal year. A loan is never ideal but a loan can also be used as a tool. In our case, we saw it as an opportunity because when the oil prices dropped in early 2020, it sent the asphalt prices to a 21 month low. The low asphalt prices made it a relatively easy decision to move forward with completing the remaining road repaving.

Audubon Park receives state gas tax revenue and that total amount has recently averaged \$30,000 per year. It is a percentage based tax on the cost of gasoline. That same tax revenue will directly go to paying down the remaining balance on the road loan. The council and I remain committed to paying off the loan as quickly as possible to allow our city to start banking money for future repaving repairs for the overall goal of not ever having to borrow money in the future for any road repairs that could occur years from now.

With election season approaching, I want to encourage you to consider running for city council of Audubon Park, which is a 2 year term (January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022). By serving on city council, you make a difference in helping manage Audubon Park's affairs, and guide its future. All 6 positions for city council are open for the years 2021 to 2022 and only 3 candidates have filed as a write-in candidate to date.

Council write-in candidates must file by *Friday, October 23 at 4:00pm* to be a write-in candidate. The process requires just a couple of forms, supporting signatures of at least two neighbors, and a \$50 filing fee. To start the process you must first create an account and file a *statement of spending intent* by visiting the website: <https://kref.ky.gov/Pages/default.aspx>. On the left hand side, click "efiling" --> "Candidate Dashboard (Candidate Access)". Next you will fill need to out a *write-in form* by visiting the website [http://jeffersoncountyclerk.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Fillable-Citylegislative\\_NonPartisan.pdf](http://jeffersoncountyclerk.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Fillable-Citylegislative_NonPartisan.pdf).

Last step in the filing process is to take the *statement of spending intent form* and the *write-in form* with a \$50 check to the county clerk's office (made payable to the Jefferson County Clerk). The Jefferson County Clerk Election Center lobby is located at 701 W. Ormsby Avenue, Suite 301. Upon arrival, call Kristi Gay or Susan Price and they will meet you downstairs. Or the filing papers can be mailed to 701 W. Ormsby Avenue, Suite 301, Louisville, KY 40203. Phone numbers for Susan and Kristi are 502-574-5889 or 502-574-5886 and their emails are [sprice@jeffersoncountyclerk.org](mailto:sprice@jeffersoncountyclerk.org) for

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Susan or [kgay@jeffersoncountyclerk.org](mailto:kgay@jeffersoncountyclerk.org) for Kristi if you need additional assistance.

**Budgeting Update-** The fiscal year 2021 budget, which went into effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>, was adopted on June 29<sup>th</sup>, following our initial proposal reading on May 26<sup>th</sup>. The passed ordinance should have recently reached you by mail. Tax rates stayed the same for both property and insurance business (no increases). All tax bills have recently been mailed and the due date for payment is September 1<sup>st</sup> (with a few days' grace added for bills affected by late delivery of PVA rolls).

**COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update-** Our police department continues to provide 24/7 service. City Hall will remain closed to in-person public visits. The city clerk is still working, but mostly from a remote location. Public works and code enforcement employees are working but rotating days. Benches in the various city parks and the new water fountain at Cross Bill Park will remain closed and swings will remain taken down. Residents are encouraged to practice their best social distancing by either calling or emailing City Hall, or by visiting our website [www.audubonparkky.org](http://www.audubonparkky.org). Please understand our continued desire to keep everyone safe and healthy!

## FOREST BOARD NEWS

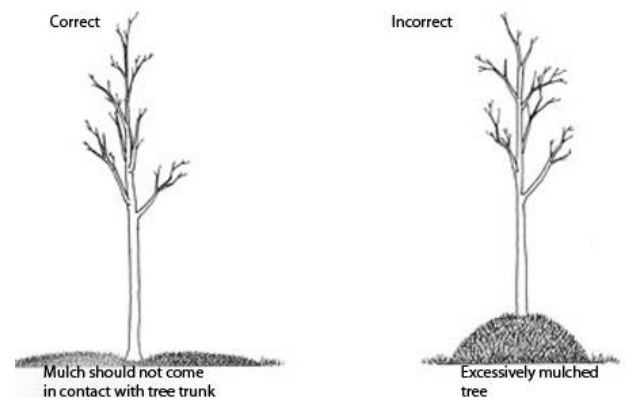
*Michael Blum- Chairperson*

As the Coronavirus continues to spread across the city and nation, I am reminded of the importance of the ability to be outdoors and connect with nature. The leaves rustling through an oak, the morning songs of the cardinals and robins, and the sweet taste of a serviceberry have been a welcome reprieve in these challenging times. I am thankful that our residents and local officials support the development of our urban tree canopy through volunteer, financial, and legislative measures, and continue to think about how we can help listen, have open conversations, serve, and meet the needs of those who live differently than we. The

ability of trees to care for one another and support one another may offer a model for us to look up to in these uncertain times.

In reciprocity and thanksgiving for the gifts of nature, we all have a role to play in caring for our arboreal friends as the summer heat and humidity intensifies over the coming weeks and months. Trees, especially during the first three years of life, require at least an inch of water per week. Many weeks during the summer, we do not receive that amount of precipitation. Supplemental watering each week will help ensure the longevity of our neighborhood trees and ensure they grow into the beautiful canopy trees that will shade our streets in the future. Please visit the Urban Tree Care Guide on the city website for more details on proper watering methods and techniques.

Additionally, mulching around trees can help improve soil quality near the tree while also maintaining soil moisture. Mulch should be applied in a thin layer of about two to three inches extending to the tree's dripline, which is defined as the outermost circumference of the tree's canopy, from which water drips onto the ground. Piling mulch around the trunk of the tree should be avoided. Such techniques, which include volcano mulching, can lead to fungal growth and rot of the tree's trunk, which will lead to a weakened tree and premature death. Proper mulching technique is shown in the image below from the Morton Arboretum.



Photograph. Mulching Trees and Shrubs. Morton Arboretum. Accessed August 29, 2019. <https://www.mortonarb.org/trees-plants/tree-and-plant-advice/horticulture-care/mulching-trees-and-shrubs>.

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Lastly, board member volunteers were able to install tree species identification signs near some trees in the neighborhood parks to help residents learn the trees. They have been placed near some of the common and noteworthy trees in the parks, and we hope they will help you further appreciate all that the trees offer us! The coronavirus has prevented the forest board from completing many of its other regularly scheduled spring activities though, such as planting new trees and installing water bags on new trees due to concern for the health of our city residents and forest board volunteers. We have not forgotten about these important tasks and are working with the mayor to develop a plan for safely completing them. If you have any questions, please reach out to Michael Blum, forest board chair, at 502-396-4029 or Michael.blum13@gmail.com.

### **AUDUBON PARK POLICE**

*Chief Mike Minniear*

I wanted to focus on safety tips this newsletter as the last newsletter was strictly based on Covid-19 and new officer introductions. Here are 16

#### ***SAFETY TIPS:***

1) Lock your front door when you are working or relaxing in the back yard and conversely when relaxing on the front porch. "Provided as a service to our neighbors"

2) Lighting is a great way to protect your property since bad guys don't want to be seen in the act of committing a crime. Call police if you see suspicious activities or people who may be up to no good. We are happy to check on them and you can be saving someone from being a crime victim.

3) Make sure that your home has the address numbers clearly visible on your home and even on the steps in front of your house so that officers or firemen can see in case of an emergency.

4) Use locks for yard gates which will limit easy access to your property and contents such as lawn furniture and barbecue grills.

5) WATCH FOR CHILDREN PLAYING! The great weather means more kids will be outside!

6) If you do outdoor activity, do so in well-traveled areas where you can get help if needed. If you walk or run, do it with a partner(s) when possible, especially when dark, and have a plan in case an emergency arises or you encounter a situation like a dog running at large (expect the unexpected).

7) Avoid door to door solicitors, especially concrete or roof repairmen. And never pay anyone for work before repairs are made. Your city ordinances prohibit soliciting. If anyone is soliciting, contact your on-duty police officer by calling 574-5471. An exception to solicitation laws are political and religious groups.

8) Never allow people into your house to use your phone. Call for them if you are inclined to do so or offer to call police and we will help them.

9) Close and lock garage doors when you are not using them; an unlocked or open garage door invites thieves to your bicycles, lawn equipment or tools.

10) When riding your bicycle day or night, make sure that your clothes do not blend into the environment. "Be seen" and make sure that drivers and pedestrians can see you. Always have reflective equipment and lighting on yours and your child's bicycles.

11) Do not leave your valuables in your car in plain sight as people pass by this invites crime, and always lock your car doors even when driving.

12) Never, ever leave children or pets inside a car. An 80-degree day can quickly produce temperatures of 120 degrees or more inside a

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vehicle, even when parked in the shade or with windows partially open.

13) While on vacation, make sure that you stop mail delivery, and ask a neighbor to remove any flyers, newspapers, and other items that might accumulate while you are away. Use timers to turn lights on and off and set radios to turn on at various times. Leave a contact number with a neighbor so that you can be reached in case of an emergency.

14) When the weather gets extremely hot, be sure to check on older and isolated neighbors.

15) Always travel on well lit, well populated streets. Always travel in groups. Remain alert to your surroundings. Never wear headphones while walking or jogging.

16) Enjoy the beautiful weather and be safe!

Here is a repeat of Covid-19 procedures from the last newsletter:

During this time of social distancing brought about by the Covid-19 (Coronavirus), some of the regular operating procedures of the Audubon Park Police Department are being modified. We will update this information as the current pandemic situation evolves. First, I want to clear any rumors of Audubon Park Police not responding to dispatched runs. Audubon Park Police will respond and take necessary action on every dispatched run. If you have an emergency or a situation that needs an immediate police response, continue to call the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Dispatch at (502) 574-5471 or dial 911. An officer will be notified immediately to assist you. If you require assistance that is not an emergency (i.e. you need to file a police report for a crime that is not currently in progress or need a copy of a report), please call (502) 574-5471. Advise dispatch to have the on duty Audubon Park Police Officer call you. Dispatch will get some basic information from you and reach the on-duty Audubon Park Police Officer and they

will call you. If an officer responds to your home, you will notice that he/she will likely maintain approximately 6 feet of distance established by the CDC as an appropriate distance to help prevent the spread of Covid-19 (Coronavirus). Our officers may ask health related questions to determine if anyone in your household has encountered or has been infected by Covid-19 (Coronavirus). These extra steps aren't meant to alarm anyone, but they have been deemed by the CDC to be appropriate measures to prevent the potential spread of Covid-19 (Coronavirus) during face to face contact between officers and residents. Our goal is to protect our residents and our officers, and we appreciate everyone's cooperation during this time. For updated and accurate information regarding Covid-19 (Coronavirus), please visit the Center for Disease Control website at <https://www.cdc.gov/>

The Audubon Park Police wishes everyone a happy and joyous Summer!

#### **AUDUBON PARK GARDEN CLUB NEWS**

*Joanne Bader*

#### **Upcoming Garden Club Programs**

The Garden Club hosts a variety of programs throughout the year which are open to all residents and their guests. Programs are held at Audubon Park City Hall, 3340 Robin Road, beginning at 1 p.m. (unless otherwise noted). And you don't even have to be a resident of Audubon Park to join the Garden Club! You just have to have an interest in gardening.

Membership dues are \$30 per year for individuals or \$55 per couple and we have had several couples join in the last few years! If you are unable to participate in regular Garden Club events, please consider becoming a Patron by contributing a tax deductible gift of \$25 or more or consider making a gift to the Garden Club in honor of John James Audubon whose birthday is April 26<sup>th</sup>! If you would like information about membership or donating to the Audubon Park Garden Club, please contact Janet Shumate at 636-0111.

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The Coronavirus has had a major impact on the activities of Audubon Park's Garden Club this past spring and is expected to continue having an impact on programming going forward. Scheduled program events in March, April and May were all cancelled due to quarantine restrictions. The May meeting was to have been a guided tour of the new Waterfront Botanical Gardens by garden educators eager to show the results of the developments from the first phase of completion. Fortunately (and hopefully) this program is being rescheduled for Monday, September 14, 2020 at 1 pm. There is no cost for the tour and it will be a wonderful way to see all the new "growth" at the Waterfront Botanical Gardens. Anyone interested should meet at the entrance to the gardens at 1437 Story Avenue at 1 pm. **However, please check Audubon Park's official website calendar at [www.audubonparkky.org](http://www.audubonparkky.org) to make sure the date hasn't been cancelled or postponed due to then applicable virus precautions.**

Going forward, the Garden Club is currently working to schedule new programs to be held next September through May of 2021, but as yet they are waiting for confirmations from potential program speakers. And unless you have a fully functional crystal ball, we have no idea what the status of life will be in the Fall. More information will be forthcoming in the City's Fall newsletter traditionally published in September. In the meantime, the Garden Club encourages all residents to get outside for fresh air and exercise and enjoy the beautiful surroundings we have available to us in Audubon Park!

#### FRIENDLY REMINDERS

In addition to community calendars, event notices, meeting schedules, and official information, the entire City Code of Ordinances is available on the Web site, [AudubonParkKY.org](http://AudubonParkKY.org), with provisions on parking, permit requirements, nuisance abatement, and all the rest. Please visit often!

- Speed limits and other traffic control measures are strictly enforced, for your safety and security. The City speed limit is 25 mph.
- There is no parking permitted on the street between 2 AM and 6 AM. There is also no parking permitted on the grass. Please inform 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](mailto:Audubonparkcodeofficer@gmail.com) or 502-554-6105.
- Going on vacation? Leaving town for business? Whatever the reason may be, being away from your home for any length of time can lead to anxiety if you have security concerns. The

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Audubon Park Police Department House Watch program is designed to provide you with peace of mind by placing your address on a stepped-up patrol list for those living in the City limits of Audubon Park. Officers in your area will be instructed to keep a close eye on your property and to conduct area checks more regularly while you are away. There is a link at our website under "Form/Signups" where you can complete a house watch request.  
<https://www.audubonparkky.org/house-watch-request.html>

- There is a link at our website under "Links" where you can "Report A Problem" to MSD regarding stormwater waste issues.
- A resident Code Enforcement Complaint Form is located at the website so concerned residents can electronically report garbage, debris, graffiti, abandoned vehicles and property, parking, and overgrowth violations. Our Part-Time Code Enforcement Officer is Otto Mock and he can be reached at [Audubonparkcodeofficer@gmail.com](mailto:Audubonparkcodeofficer@gmail.com) or 502-554-6105.
- Please discourage children and others from climbing trees in the various City parks, out of concern for both safety and potential damage.
- Information regarding ash trees and the emerald ash borer is available at City Hall, and on the Forest Board's archive Web site, *TreeCommittee-APKY.org*.
- Waste of all types – garbage, recycling and yard waste – is collected on Tuesdays (with occasional exceptions for holidays which is usually a day or two later). Garbage is picked up from behind your house, while yard waste and recycling items are to be placed at the curb. Do not place garbage at the curb as only yard waste and recycling are to be placed at the curb. Be sure to report any missed collection to City Hall.
- Please wear reflective clothing or other reflective gear – or, better still, carry powered lights – if

you are out running, biking or walking in reduced light. It can be very difficult to see you if you are wearing dark clothing! Please take personal responsibility for your safety so accidents don't occur – you may be harder to see than you think!

- MSD offers rate assistance for senior citizens that are age 65 or older, have a gross annual income of \$35,000 or less and are both Louisville Water and MSD customers. An application can be made for a 30% discount on wastewater charges and the EPA surcharge by calling 502-540-6000.
- Kentucky's Constitution allows property owners who are 65 or older to receive the Homestead Exemption on their primary residence. If you are eligible to receive the Homestead Exemption, the exemption amount is subtracted from your property's assessed value, reducing your property tax liability. The Homestead Exemption for 2019-2020 is \$39,300. Only one exemption (Homestead or Disability) is allowed per household. Once approved for the Homestead Exemption, you are not required to reapply annually. You are eligible for the Homestead Exemption on residential or commercial property as long as you own and occupy the property as your primary residence and meet all other qualifying criteria.
- Audubon Park has a Little Free Library located at the intersection of Wren and Audubon Parkway. The Little Free Library is a book/magazine/DVD/CD exchange for adults and children where you are free to drop off or take materials located in the outdoor book holder. The library steward is Amanda Thompson. If you have questions, concerns, or comments, please feel free to call, text or email her at 502-931-0790 or [amt924@hotmail.com](mailto:amt924@hotmail.com).



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## COMMUNICATIONS

The City of Audubon Park 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 (when COVID-19 is over).

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