


The Official Newsletter of The City of Audubon Park

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FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR WILLIAMS

Tony Williams

The most common question I get this time of the year is regarding the due date of Audubon Park taxes. In a normal year, they are due by July 1. Tax bills were delayed 3 months last year due to a COVID-19 gubernatorial order. This year, there will again be a delay due to the property re-assessment and ample time must be allowed for the appeal process to finalize. Since property values went up, Audubon Park will more than likely adjust the tax rate by lowering it. Audubon Park does not know the total property assessment until after the PVA rolls are certified from the PVA office. Once the certified rolls are in, the City will then be able to calculate the tax rate and bills will be sent out at that time. I would plan for a September time frame.

Audubon Park is showing signs of returning to social normalcy. Park benches are open for use and tire swings have been installed with new hanging equipment. The next community event is the annual Independence Day parade. The flyer for the parade is enclosed, but this years parade will be held on Saturday, July 3rd. 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.

The 2nd annual Audubon Park community yard sale is scheduled for September 25th from 8am to 2pm. Be sure to sign up via Signup Genius or by calling the City Clerk and providing your address if you plan on participating in the yard sale. Auktoberfest will commence shortly after the September 25th yard sale from 4pm to 9pm. Stay tuned for additional details for these events.

New physical upgrades you may notice are the 3 monarch butterfly waystations in Oriole, Robin, and Curlew Parks. Special thanks to Amy Shelton and other volunteers for the waystation upgrades. Water hookup for Robin Park was just recently installed which now means we have water hookups in every park. Also, 12 new entry signs have been installed at every entry point into Audubon Park. The new signs will replace the existing, outdated signs. One of the goals of the new signs is to better define our boundaries. The Thompson family has recently added a second Little Free Public Library dedicated solely to children's books. I appreciate the Thompson family's continued maintenance and upkeep of our local book exchange library.

A major technology upgrade currently taking place at city hall is an online payment system. This will allow residents a more convenient way to pay for permits and property taxes online, if they choose. Parking tickets, citations, and code enforcement

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citations will soon have the ability to all be paid electronically and/or by credit card.

Mark Adams was recently appointed and confirmed as our new, part-time city engineer. Mark has a wealth of experience and looking forward to his expertise in evaluating and advising the city on all areas that involve public works.

Waste Management seems to be providing all 3 of their services a little later in the day than normal. Please give it until late Tuesday night or early Wednesday morning before calling with a complaint that your Waste Management services were missed. Any mattress or furniture item with upholstery that is placed at the street must be wrapped in plastic due to sanitary concerns. Our contact for Waste Management is Andy Reynolds and can be reached at 502-931-2616 or kreyrol2@wm.com.

I want to thank Michael Blum for his past service in his position as Forest Board Chair. He continues to be an invaluable asset to the city and I'm glad that he will continue to stay on the Forest Board. Please welcome new Forest Board Chair Aaron Morris and new member Bill Rising to the Forest Board. We are still actively searching for 2 or 3 new volunteer board members for Parks & Recreation 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 heat increases and the roar of the cicadas grows louder, I find myself ever more thankful for the deep shade of our urban tree canopy. The board has been busy working with our city forester to ensure the trees that make our community so special continue to flourish.

This summer, a new project directed towards preserving the dogwood trees in our city parks has been started. The city forester will be working on root collar excavations on many of the declining

dogwoods to remove excessive soil around the trunk of the trees. This process will help to prevent rot on the lower trunk of the tree, which could lead to insect and fungal diseases. In addition, it has been noted that soil around the trees in the parks is compacted, slowing water infiltration into the soil and reducing oxygen availability to the tree roots. To help with this, the city forester will use an air knife to break up the compaction layer. Lastly, the board has had biological soil testing completed in the vicinity of the declining dogwoods throughout the parks. By looking at the soil through a microscope, observation shows that the soils in our parks lack much of the biological activity that one would find in a forest setting where dogwoods thrive. To help increase the biological activity, the forester will be adding biological foods and inoculants to help increase the number of beneficial microorganisms such as nematodes, flagellates, amoebas, earthworms, and fungi!

The board is excited to be able to put into action some of the most recent research into holistic tree care. We are hopeful for an improvement in the health of the dogwoods that we celebrate each spring.

After serving for two years as the forest board chair, my term as chair is ending and this will be my last newsletter. Thank you and the board for giving me the opportunity to serve our community in the preservation and regeneration of our urban tree canopy. I am often amazed at the generosity of arboreal life, from the surprise of a ripe serviceberry in June, to the cooling shade of our many oaks in the heat of July, to the dazzling hues of red, orange, and yellow of the maples in fall, trees seem to give far more than they take. They offer us one of the greatest examples of how to live in community and to take care of one another. I hope that we can continue to work together as a community to take care of each other and the planet we all call home. I look forward to the new forest board chair introducing himself to you in the next newsletter.

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AUDUBON PARK POLICE

Assistant Chief Teddy Laun



June is here and the first official day of Summer is right around the corner. People always move around more in the warm weather and we love seeing all of you joggers, walkers and pet owners in the Park. While you are enjoying the beautiful scenery in Audubon Park, please keep a few things in mind. If

you are on the streets during hours of darkness, it is very difficult for motorists to see you. Pedestrians: wear reflective clothing or arm bands. There are also articles with small flashing lights that are available and will make you much easier to see. Motorists: be sure to observe the 25 mile per hour speed limit AND stay off of your cellphones and other devices. Keep your eyes on the road and watch out for pedestrians in the area. Dog Walkers: your dog must be on a leash or under your ABSOLUTE control. Being under your absolute control prevents your dog from jumping on other pedestrians, running or lunging toward other pets or chasing wildlife and cars. Having a dog that is not on a leash or under your ABSOLUTE control is a citable violation under city ordinance and will be handled accordingly.

Residents are not the only ones out enjoying the area under the cover of darkness. Opportunists are everywhere. There have been organized groups of individuals seeking out areas that have a high number of unlocked vehicles. Some of the groups are on foot or on bicycles. Some of the groups are in cars. A car can stop in the street and let 4 people out very quickly. They dash to check for unlocked car doors, grab what they can from vehicles and then run back to the "get-away" car. These groups can hit numerous vehicles within a few minutes and they almost always go for those easy targets and then they are gone. They are very difficult to catch in the act, but you can help make Audubon Park an unattractive target area simply by taking a few seconds to lock those car doors before going to bed and never leave spare keys inside your vehicles.

Scams are becoming more sophisticated every day. Always be on the watch for scams that come in emails, texts and phone calls. NEVER give out your personal information such as your social security number or date of birth over the phone or other devices unless you are 100% certain you know who the caller is. If you get an email stating that there has been suspicious activity on an account that is linked to your financial information, (i.e. Paypal, Amazon, Ebay and many others), NEVER click the included link and enter your log in information. Simply go to your browser and type in the web address that you normally use to access your account or use an app that you have previously downloaded to access those accounts. This should prevent you from inadvertently giving your user name and password to someone looking to steal your information and gain access to your financial accounts. NEVER attempt to pay a fine or utility bill with a gift card. This is a SCAM. No legitimate company will ever ask you to pay with a gift card over the phone. If a company offers to send you a nice thank you gift for being a customer or taking a survey, but also asks you to pay the shipping costs. They will ask for your credit card number and then in subsequent months you will see what you think are unauthorized charges on your credit card for larger amounts. Somewhere in the fine print, there is a clause that gives permission to make these future charges and you gave them all of the information necessary to keep dinging your credit card. Your bank will not refund this money because you gave them the information and by accepting their "gift" you gave them permission to charge your credit card.

We know that crime is on the rise all over Jefferson County. So far, this has not been the case in Audubon Park. We had our lowest number of reported crimes in 2020 and we are on a path to repeat those low numbers in 2021. Our officers are available around the clock, every single day. If you have a question or concern or need an immediate assistance, please, call (502)574-5471 and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office will notify an on duty officer immediately. We look forward to seeing

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everyone under the cool side of our beautiful tree canopy. See you all around the Park.

AUDUBON PARK GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Joanne Bader

What A Spring We Had!

Audubon Park was blessed with a wonderful spring display of flowering trees and shrubs this year, particularly with the abundance and beauty of our dogwood trees - despite the surprise appearance of a quick 2" snow... Dr. Paul Cappiello wrote an article in the Courier-Journal earlier in May, discussing why this spring was so spectacular – and it boiled down to a couple key factors: no extended droughts or heatwaves last summer, a lack of “July in February” warmups (which are common here) to trick the plants, and a slow and gradual warm up temperature-wise in spring. Hopefully we had many visitors from around the city to come see the spectacular display of our city’s dogwoods this year and let’s keep our fingers crossed for similar conditions next year!

Cicadas

Cicadas seem to be the topic du jour for much of Louisville in the past month or so! Surprisingly, Audubon Park has not been hit with the large numbers of these bugs as have other neighboring areas like the Highlands, Lexington Road, St. Matthews, Old Louisville etc. In fact, I’ve noticed that there seem to be sharp lines of demarcation between areas where they are ever present and where they are almost non-existent! For example, they are loud when turning up Audubon Parkway from Poplar Level – but only till you hit Eagle Pass...beyond then “crickets” i.e. quiet as you continue along Audubon Parkway towards Preston Highway. Another example noted anecdotally while driving westbound on the Watterson, they were common between Taylorsville Road and Newburg Road (hitting the windshield indiscriminately) but stopped once past Newburg! Regardless, they should soon be leaving the area by late June or early July since they only have a lifespan of 4-6 weeks. If we have warm and dry weather, it will shorten their lifespan because they can mate faster – which is

basically their only imperative once emerging from their “hibernation” in the ground as well as to lay eggs.

Multiple experts have noted that cicadas won’t harm your gardens or plants since they don’t chew on them. However, they do pierce small roots or branches to lay their eggs or to drink the sap. Although it may be too late now, it is best to cover small trees with netting so they can’t lay their eggs; they seem to leave larger, more mature trees alone.

Support the Monarch Butterfly (as well as all other Butterflies!)

Audubon Park Garden Club initially planted several Monarch Butterfly Waystation gardens in three of the city’s parks Robin, Oriole, and Curlew many years ago. The Mayor has recently worked to revive and upgrade those initial gardens by surrounding them with granite pavers to accent their borders, weeding them, adding additional varieties of butterfly-attracting flower plant species, and providing labels for each plant species.

A little history first before specific flower recommendations if you want to plant to attract monarchs and other butterflies to your garden. Kentucky has officially registered 827 Monarch Waystations since they highlighted this need to statewide garden clubs. Monarchs migrate from Canada to Mexico – a distance of 2,000 miles – each year. Milkweeds are the only plants that their caterpillars can feed on and on which females lay their eggs. The number of monarch butterflies has seriously decreased due to loss of their habitat through development or spraying.

The best flowers to plant for Monarch butterflies are varieties of the Milkweed: Common Milkweed, Swamp Milkweed, Butterfly Weed, Tropical Milkweed or Mexican Milkweed – although reportedly there are 175 varieties! Other native Kentucky plants that attract butterflies include: Virginia Sweetspire, all kinds of asters, Blazing Stars (liatris), coneflowers (which come in a wide variety of colors), button bush, scarlet bee balm and viburnum. Other flowers

that will be planted in the city's Waystation gardens that may be more familiar include: columbine, cardinal flower, foxglove, Eastern Bluestar, lobelia, and Virginia bluebells. FYI, it is important, particularly for the Milkweed plants that they be allowed to go to seed for the propagation of the Monarch Butterfly so don't be disturbed if they look a little unruly as the summer progresses...

While We're on the Topic – Bee Friendly Plants to Support our Pollinators

Let us not forget the importance of bees in our food chain as well as in our gardens! Consider planting these bee-friendly flowers and herbs: Black-eyed Susan, Cosmos, coneflowers, Dianthus, lavender, lobelia, marigolds, rosemary, sage, mint, oregano and verbenas...

Uncovering Decades of Historical Photos and Audubon Park Memorabilia

While many may dispute whether there were any positive aspects of the recent year of Covid, it did allow several members of the Audubon Park Garden Club unfettered access to a closet of Garden Club yearbooks and scrapbooks dating back to 1929. Most of these were initially submitted to State Garden Club competitions but hold a wealth of historical photos and other information. With the assistance of City Hall and several Garden Club members, this data is either being digitized or restored to newer, archival scrapbooks to preserve this history. One of the goals of the project is to put much of the digitized photos on the City's website to provide a historical perspective that has been lost for decades...

The Beauty and Wonder of Cave Hill Cemetery's Wildlife and Natural Wonders – Lee Payne

Although the Garden Club's meetings over the past year were sporadic due to Covid, they recently held a meeting led by Lee Payne, the Director of Security at Cave Hill Cemetery. Lee is a frequent contributor of photos and information about wildlife found in Cave Hill Cemetery on the Next Door app. Through a variety of cameras throughout the grounds of Cave

Hill, he has posted numerous pictures of a fox family with several kits (who are adorable)! He also spoke about the colony of bats located in a cave near the administration building, a yellow crested night heron and the multitude of beehives supported in the cemetery by 6 bee keepers. As a side note, Cave Hill sells its honey Monday-Saturday at the admin office at the Broadway entrance. Cave Hill is a beautiful spot to visit with its 5 lakes and 5 natural springs which help support the multitude of birds and other animals that inhabit the grounds. Lee Payne's photos and videos of the animals are so mesmerizing that the Garden Club hopes to invite him back to another, hopefully larger program in the fall. We will post all upcoming programs on the city's website prior to September...

The Garden Club hopes to fully reinstate its annual programming schedule in September which runs through May, with exceptions in December/January due to weather constraints. 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.*

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- Building permits are issued through City Hall and the form can be downloaded from our website under "Building Permit." If you have a project in mind, please call or come by City Hall for more information on obtaining a permit.
 - Yard sale, parades, use of public parks, and other general permits can be applied for online at the "Permit Form" section of our website. Final permits are issued through City Hall. Please call or come by City Hall for more information on obtaining a permit.
 - There is a link at our website under "Links" where you can report any streetlights that are out of order directly to LG&E for repairs under "Streetlight Outage Online Form."
 - Permits are required for any work on city street easement trees including pruning or removal. Permits allow for the city to confirm tree companies are insured and to ensure the work being done will contribute to the overall health of our urban tree canopy. If you are unsure if your tree is in the easement, contact our Code Enforcement Officer Otto Mock at Audubonparkcodeofficer@gmail.com or 502-554-6105.
 - Going on vacation? Leaving town for business? Whatever the reason may be, being away from your home for any length of time can lead to anxiety if you have security concerns. The Audubon Park Police Department House Watch program is designed to provide you with peace of mind by placing your address on a stepped-up patrol list for those living in the City limits of Audubon Park. Officers in your area will be instructed to keep a close eye on your property and to conduct area checks more regularly while you are away. There is a link at our website under "Form/Signups" where you can complete a house watch request:
<https://www.audubonparkky.org/house-watch-request.html>
 - There is a link at our website under "Links" where you can "Report A Problem" to MSD regarding stormwater waste issues.
 - A resident Code Enforcement Complaint Form is located at the website so concerned residents can electronically report garbage, debris, graffiti, abandoned vehicles and property, parking, and overgrowth violations. Our Part-Time Code Enforcement Officer is Otto Mock and he can be reached at Audubonparkcodeofficer@gmail.com or 502-554-6105.
 - Please discourage children and others from climbing trees in the various City parks, out of concern for both safety and potential damage.
 - Information regarding ash trees and the emerald ash borer is available at City Hall, and on the Forest Board's archive Web site, *TreeCommittee-APKY.org*.
 - Waste of all types – garbage, recycling and yard waste – is collected on Tuesdays (with occasional exceptions for holidays which is usually a day or two later). Garbage is picked up from behind your house, while yard waste and recycling items are to be placed at the curb. **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.
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- 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.

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, 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, 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!