


# The Official Newsletter of The City of Audubon Park

Tony Williams, Mayor  
Janette Mercer, City Clerk  
Teddy Laun, Police Chief  
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[www.AudubonParkKY.org](http://www.AudubonParkKY.org)  
 Audubon Park City Hall



City Council:

Michael Hartman	Madeline Bozeman
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Issue 98

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## FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR WILLIAMS

Tony Williams

### Taxes

The most common question I get this time of the year is regarding the due date of Audubon Park taxes. Tax bills were delayed 3 months two years ago due to a COVID-19 gubernatorial order. Last year, there was a delay due to the property re-assessment and ample time was allowed for the appeal process to finalize. This year, which is finally a normal year, they are due by July 1 and we are allowing a few days grace period due to mail services being slow. The tax rate for this year stayed the at the same as last year at \$0.24 per \$100 of assessed value. Other than last year, the last time our tax rates have been this low was 18 years ago in 2004. Most of you should notice that your total bill is slightly less than it was last year. I'm also proud of the fact that we've never had to raise property taxes in the 4 years I've served as Mayor. That's also a testament to your council members that have served the city for the last 4 years.

You should have recently received your Audubon Park tax bill in the mail. You can mail it to 3320 Robin Road, drop it inside one of our two dropboxes next to the front door of city hall, or you can pay online at the "Online Bill Pay" section of our website: <https://www.audubonparkky.org/online-bill-pay.html>

### Social Events

This years Dogwood Festival was a huge success. Thanks to all the volunteers that helped out and sincere thanks to our title sponsor Independence Bank. Our next community event will be the Independence Day parade. The flyer is enclosed and this years parade will be held on Saturday, July 2nd. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Audubon Park community yard sale is scheduled for October 1st 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 October 1st yard sale from 4pm to 9pm. Stay tuned for additional details for these events.

### Sidewalk Improvements

Audubon Park officials continue to prioritize making our neighborhood a safer place to walk. Additional sections of sidewalks have been identified for removal and replacement in the upcoming months. For at least the last 25 years, it has been the homeowner's responsibility to maintain and repair the sidewalk. The responsibility remains unchanged

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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.

### **Other Improvements**

Stop bar striping at all intersections were recently painted with thermoplastic road marking paint (also known as hot melt) to allow for more durability and visibility during the day and at night. Other new physical upgrades in the works are new street name signs to be replaced at every street intersection along with drainage improvements at certain streets intersecting Hess Lane and in other problematic areas.

### **Waste Management**

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](mailto:kreynol2@wm.com). In the coming months, Waste Management will be switching our 65 gallon recycling carts with 96 gallon recycling carts.

### **Home Stretch**

It's been a very busy and productive three years and a half years as Mayor and I look forward to my 6 remaining months. Once again, I thank you for your continued confidence and support as we work together to continue to move our great City forward. Have a safe and fantastic Summer!

## **FOREST BOARD NEWS**

*Aaron Morris- Chairperson*

### **The Tree that everyone loves to hate**

In the 1970's, arborists and nurseries thought we had found the perfect urban street tree. It grew practically anywhere, in any kind of soil. It needed little water and was disease and pest resistant. It was fast-growing and covered with beautiful white flowers first thing in the spring – before any other trees or plants began to bloom. The Bradford (callery) Pear tree seemed perfect for streets and other municipal locations where trees often struggle. If only we knew then what we know now.

The original Bradford Pear trees were supposed to be sterile – they could not reproduce and spread.

Since they're a hybrid containing a strain of Chinese pear tree, they're not native to the US. Plant experts did not think the tree could propagate out of control, but that's exactly what's happened.

The tree was designed to be small but ended up growing 40 or more feet tall. The flowers often have a terrible scent when they're grown in bunches. Bradford pear trees also have a structural flaw, with weak branches of soft wood stemming from the same section of the trunk. The trees literally tear themselves apart after about 20 years.

The trees cannot self-pollinate but can reproduce with another variety of the *Pyrus calleryana* species. The offspring are called Callery pears. The resulting hybrids are more problematic than the original Bradford pear tree.

Even worse, the offspring reverted to the characteristics of the original pear tree, producing tire-puncturing thorns and bramble-like thickets that crowd out native plants. And they spread like wildfire. While your pretty flowering pear tree thrives, I promise you it has spawned hundreds of troublesome offspring in open areas where pollen and seeds have spread.

It's gotten so bad that South Carolina, Pennsylvania and Ohio have all banned the sale of the tree, and I expect other states to follow soon. Unfortunately, the perfect street tree turned out to be a menace.

What can you do about this bramble and thorn producing tree villain? Do we need to cut down all the Bradford pears? Well, as much as we love our trees here in Audubon Park – honestly it wouldn't hurt. They are an invasive species after all. Their structural weakness is going to cause you problems eventually – I always avoid parking underneath a Bradford if I can. If I could snap my fingers and replace every Bradford in the park with a nice native dogwood, flowering cherry or serviceberry – I absolutely would.

There's no immediate rush though. The damage is already done and due to their short lifespan, this is

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a problem that will eliminate itself over time. The best thing you can do is to avoid planting any new Bradford pear varieties.

If you want to replace your Bradford pear – let us know and we can take a look and make recommendations and plans to get you a great new native species tree. We are planning to plant a lot of new trees this fall and next year, and we would be happy to work with you!

If you wanted, you could even be a part of our plans to introduce more dogwoods to the park! We've all noticed the problems the dogwoods have had the past year, and our efforts to treat and preserve the ones in the parks continues. We're also replacing several this fall to ensure this important tree continues to find a home in Audubon Park!

As always, if you have any tree questions or concerns – feel free to reach out to me at [aaronlane@gmail.com](mailto:aaronlane@gmail.com) or call or text at 502-641-7810.

### **AUDUBON PARK POLICE**

*Chief Teddy Laun*



WOW! Summer already! The city is bustling with graduations, family celebrations and backyard gatherings. The school year is over and there are children everywhere. As expected, there is a huge increase in the number of children outside playing, taking walks and bicycling. We need everyone's help to keep our children safe. The speed limit within Audubon Park is 25 miles per hour. We hope that the beautiful new signage recently voted on by the City Council is a good reminder to everyone to abide by the speed limit. For those who need additional encouragement, our officers will be watching for speeders and those who have forgotten their driver's training about properly stopping at stop signs. We all have the same goal. Keeping our city and residents safe.

In addition to traffic violations, our officers are also out checking for parking violations. Parking on the grass is prohibited in Audubon Park. In addition, there is no street parking between the hours of 0200 AM and 0600 AM. Many of these ordinances appear on the signs that have recently been placed. If you are doing a home improvement project or hosting an occasional event and feel that you may need special parking allowances, please, send an email to [TLaun@audubonparkky.org](mailto:TLaun@audubonparkky.org) and explain your situation. We will do our best to accommodate these requests.

As temperatures and Summer activities increase, there is an increase in opportunities for criminal activity. It is tempting to leave windows down in your vehicle. If you do, please be sure to remove all valuables. We do not want our city to become known as an easy target. When doing yardwork, check to make sure that the doors and windows on the opposite side of the house are secured. In other areas, would be thieves have slipped in unnoticed as people complete their chores in the yard. Telephone and computer scams are also on the rise. Never give out your personal information to someone you do not know. The scammers are becoming more sophisticated and many of the fraudulent links appear to be legitimate. If you get an email about an issue with an account that contains personal information or financial information such as payment methods, do not click on the link in the email. It is easy to type a trusted website name into your browser and log in that way. If you are unsure about a call or an email, show it to a trusted friend or family member before entering any information. Remember, the IRS, utility companies and banks will not call you and demand payment for late bills and they will NEVER request payment in the form of gift cards.

If you find yourself in a situation where you need immediate assistance from the Audubon Park Police Department, do not call City Hall and do not leave a message on our Facebook page (it is not monitored 24 hours a day). Please call the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office at (502)574-5471 and tell them you

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need the Audubon Park Police. Dispatch will notify an officer immediately and get them to you quickly. Major Cheri Bower has joined us as the Assistant Chief and we are thrilled to have her with us. Cheri brings 21 years of police experience with her and served with Jefferson County Police Department before it merged to become Louisville Metro Police Department and with Anchorage Police Department. Cheri has a wide variety of knowledge gained while being a district resource officer and a detective in the 8<sup>th</sup> Division. Cheri is a natural leader and is already showing herself to be a huge asset to our department. There will be a lot of opportunities for everyone to meet Cheri and get to know her as she moves into her new role. Cheri and I are both very proud of our officers and our department. If you see us out and about, please, feel free to come over and say hello. We look forward to interacting with the residents and we will be seeing all of you around the Park.

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

*Joanne Bader*

##### **Spring Recap: Festival of the Dogwood and Brightside Cleanup**

Mother Nature wasn't kind to Audubon Park this year, coming in later and cooler than normal which impacted full blooming of the park's many dogwood trees. However, she did cooperate and provide a lovely day and evening for the celebration of the *Festival of the Dogwood* in Henderson Park on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> which was widely attended by a huge enthusiastic crowd who enjoyed the various musical groups, food trucks, and children's activities. If we'd only had about another 7-10 days of warmer weather to allow more blooms to showcase the beauty of Audubon Park in spring....perhaps next year!

Just prior to the festival on Saturday April 16<sup>th</sup>, members of the Garden Club and other resident volunteers helped in the semi-annual *Brightside cleanup* along the Preston Highway entrance to Audubon Park. Under the leadership of Marie Eff, five volunteers weeded and gathered 4 bags trash for two blocks in each direction from the stone entrance pillars. While we hoped more would help

with the cleanup, the pleasant weather that morning and surprisingly less than normal trash found made it a successful endeavor. There will be another Brightside cleanup scheduled for the third Saturday in October – so put it on your calendars and help volunteer for a worthy cause!

##### **The Loss of Two "Larger than Life" Garden Club Members**

This spring, the Audubon Park Garden Club lost two very involved, long-time members: **Mrs. Marjorie Davis and Mrs. Mary H. Miller**. Both were extremely involved in supporting the Garden Club and its many activities in the park and both were huge civic volunteers and cheerleaders for our city. Marjorie Davis was a resident of Audubon Park for over 60 years and also an active member of the Garden Club for a similar period of time. Many long-time residents remember Marjorie and her husband Floyd, who used to run a pharmacy on Preston Highway. With the recent 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Festival of the Dogwood in 2021, many learned that Marjorie Davis provided the inspiration behind the much beloved idea of lighting up our dogwood trees in the spring, having heard about a similar program elsewhere in the state while attending a State Garden Club convention. This idea endures to this day and truly makes Audubon Park an oasis of beauty and light in the spring for all residents and our many visitors. In the early days, Marjorie was also one of many Garden Club members who dressed up as Southern Belles and served lemonade and treats. She was even selected to represent a Southern Belle on a float for the City of Louisville in the Derby Parade in 1978. Marjorie was a past president of the Audubon Park Garden club and a Life Member of the Garden Club of Kentucky. She was a warm, elegant woman who always presided over the silver teapot or coffeepot at the Club's New Member Christmas teas...she will be much missed!

Mary H. Miller was likewise a dedicated and powerful force within the Audubon Park Garden Club. While Mary was a resident of the city since 1954, she was an active member of the Garden Club for 27 years. During her many years in the Garden Club, Mary had many leadership roles that greatly added to community life in the park and within the gardening

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community of Louisville. One of her most active roles was as head of the Ways and Means Committee which for years put on the annual Arts and Crafts Festival in Oriole Park – beloved by many. She also was one of the main organizers of the Audubon Park Garden tours which were held for 15 years from 2002-2017. Not content to just serve as president of the Garden Club for several years, she also was a Life Member of the Garden Club of Kentucky and a long-time (20+ years) and active member of Hostas of Kentuckiana – she was a huge lover of the many varieties of hostas and was generous in opening her gardens to touring groups as well as a generous donor of hosta “starts” to any who wanted to grow them! Mary, too, was used to wearing Southern Belle costumes during Dogwood Festival events and was one of the festival’s strongest supporters. Prior to her joining the Garden Club, she was a nurse at Norton Hospital and Hazelwood Hospital where she made a major difference in many patients’ lives. She too will be greatly missed!

### **Monarch Butterflies and Efforts to Support Them In Audubon Park**

A year ago in the June, 2021 Garden Club Newsletter column, efforts to attract and support monarch butterflies was discussed in an article describing the development of Monarch Butterfly Waystation gardens in several of the City’s parks. Efforts to restore Waystation gardens built in Robin and Oriole parks were expanded to include Wren and Curlew parks, with technical design and consultation provided by Backyard Botanicals – a company specializing in native plant garden design and maintenance. Much of this effort has been spearheaded by park resident, Amy Shelton, who gave a wonderful presentation on Monarch Butterflies at the Garden Club’s recent Spring Luncheon in April.

Monarch butterflies 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. Recent years have seen a huge decline in the number of migrating monarch butterflies due to loss of their habitat through development or the spraying of pesticides. Amy actually ventured (on horseback) in Mexico to

the site where millions of Monarch butterflies overwinter before a new generation heads back north.

Milkweed and other native plants (also mentioned in the June 2021 article which can be found on the City’s website) which have been grown without pesticides can be found locally at Idlewild Butterfly Farm during the spring and fall. Milkweed can be planted from seed in the fall, but plants can be purchased and planted now if you and your family would like to try to attract Monarch butterflies in your garden. Idlewild also offers organic pesticide-free mosquito barrier, natural pest controls, butterfly kits, insectarium tours and more and can be found at [www.idlewildbutterflyfarm.com](http://www.idlewildbutterflyfarm.com) or at 1100 Logan Street, Louisville, KY 40204. Amy has indicated her willingness in helping others to create pollinator habitats within Audubon Park and can be reached at [amyshelton@gmail.com](mailto:amyshelton@gmail.com). Also check out the large pollinator/milkweed garden in Curlew Park at the end closest to Eagle Pass Road. She also hopes to have a Monarch celebration and release at Auktoberfest in September that will be fun for all ages!

### **Garden Club Programs and Membership**

Audubon Park Garden Club programs are on hiatus during the summer months and will resume in September. 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](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

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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

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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.
- **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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