



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
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Audubon Park City Hall



City Council:

Michael Hartman	Madeline Bozeman
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Andrew Klump	Elyse Shackleton

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FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR WILLIAMS

Tony Williams

Numbers To Enter Into Your Cell Phone

Before you read the newsletter any further, stop what you are doing and enter two very important phone numbers in your phone. 502-574-5471 is the number to call when you immediately need an Audubon Park Police officer. This is dispatch and when calling this number, be sure to tell dispatch you need an Audubon Park Police officer. Please don't call City Hall or post on social media if you have an immediate need for an Audubon Park Police officer in lieu of calling 502-574-5471.

The other phone number to save is 502-931-2616. This is Andy Reynolds phone number who is our Waste Management representative. If any of your garbage, recycling, or yard waste gets missed due to service issues, Andy Reynolds is who you need to contact. Andy Reynolds can also be reached through e-mail at kreynol2@wm.com. We certainly share your frustrations with service issues. Unfortunately, Waste Management is continuing to have staffing issues that is disrupting our sanitation services. The schedule for the remainder of the year is enclosed but the key takeaway is recycling pickup will be every other week. The upside is in the coming months, Waste Management will be switching our 65 gallon recycling carts with 96 gallon recycling carts.

Social Events

Traditionally, the Festival of the Dogwood has been the third week of April. But because of Thunder over Louisville and the unseasonably warm weather, our signature Festival of the Dogwood will be held on **Saturday April 16th from 3pm to 10pm at Henderson (Wren) Park**. Plan for the weekend of April 2nd/3rd to begin lighting your trees, shrubs, and flowers, and always during the week leading into the Festival of the Dogwood so we can showcase our city! I'd like to personally ask you for extra attention to detail on your lawn and landscaping as we approach The Festival of the Dogwood. Keeping our city in pristine condition during the dogwood season is over a half century tradition and sure way we can show off our beautiful neighborhood!

Sidewalk Improvements

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

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be set aside from future city budgets to continue to fix the worst areas.

City Beautification

New physical upgrades you may soon notice are new traffic signs that will be replaced in the entire city except for those signs attached to street names. The street name sign replacements will be the final phase and we would like for the residents to give us input on the design.

Upcoming City Elections

It's been a very busy and productive three years and I look forward to my 9 remaining months as Mayor. We will need at least 7 residents to fill offices of Mayor and all six Council seats. City Council is a 2 year term and Mayor is a 4 year term. If we don't have someone run as Mayor and/or City Council, there is a current Senate Bill 106 that could dissolve a city that does not have elected officials. If you don't want to see your city dissolved or absorbed into the City of Louisville, then please step up and run for office.

The candidate filing deadline is Tuesday June 7, 2022 at 4PM. Candidates can go online to find additional filing forms and instructions at <http://elections.jeffersoncountyclerk.org/>. Select "Forms and Reports," then select "Candidate Filing Forms" from the dropdown list.

Once again, I thank you for your continued confidence and support as we work together to continue to move our great City forward. Enjoy your Spring and most importantly have a safe, healthy Year!

FOREST BOARD NEWS

Aaron Morris- Chairperson

Spring is coming – and if you're like me you're looking out the window at all the projects you have planned that come along with it. Though they may look dormant and bare, our trees in Audubon Park are already busy! They started preparing last fall for their upcoming emergence from winter. Our trees already have buds for this year's growth on their

twigs and branches — not only leaf buds but also beginnings of formations like flowers, catkins, cones, and other reproductive structures.

The buds on trees were formed last year, in preparation for their emergence later this spring. Just like an acorn has stored all the energy it needs to begin growing into an oak tree, these buds have stored energy for their debut in a few weeks! This stored energy is why deer and other animals find nuts and tree buds such a fortifying snack throughout the winter.

Below the ground a lot is happening as well. As the days get longer and soil temperatures rise all sorts of creatures large and small are becoming more active in the soil around our trees. Warmer temperatures allow bacteria and other microbes to begin fortifying the soil, and our tree's roots are responding. Early spring is a big time for new roots to grow – which is why we like to plant new trees in the fall.

We planted about a dozen new trees in Audubon Park last fall and now those trees will be stretching out their roots and getting established in their new home. Soon, spring rains will help trees in a few different ways. First, the energy stored in the roots last fall will be pushed up the tree in the form of sap, to begin waking the trees from their dormant winter. Those leaf buds will also begin to open and grow, which will help to pull water and sugars up from the roots into the whole structure of the tree.

All the pathways from the roots to the leaves run just under the bark, along the very outside rim of the tree trunk. When we hit a tree with a lawn mower or weed eater it might look like a scratch to us, but it's serious damage to the tree! That scratch might have severed the route the tree uses to get water up to it's leaves. Too many of these wounds at the base can doom a whole tree. The best way to avoid them is a ring of mulch around the base of the tree! It makes mowing and trimming easier and helps the tree as well. When spring rains fall, they filter through the decomposing mulch and carry important nutrients to the tree roots.

After the leaves begin to emerge, our trees will form flowers in early spring. Every tree has flowers, but we often don't notice them! Red maples will form the beautiful small red flowers we find on our cars and even oak trees form the distinctive strands that will soon cover the ground. The most noticeable flower you will see is the tulip poplar's large yellow blossom which alerts us that spring has finally arrived in earnest.

Already if you walk around Audubon Park you'll see flowers on the ground that indicate our ecosystem waking up from winter! Purple crocuses grow wild in many yards, as do yellow aconites. Look for downward facing snowdrops and all of these plants along Audubon Parkway this month. Soon the bluebells and daffodils will join them, having already pushed up from the soil and made their appearance. If you see a flower or a tree and are wondering what it is – it's easy to find out and help catalog our ecosystem for researchers at the same time! If you download a free app called iNaturalist to your phone and create an account, it lets you snap a picture of any plant or animal, then tap "What did you see?" and the app will help you identify what's in the picture. You can even explore photos and observations made by others in the same area. Researchers use the database of observations in iNaturalist to catalog and track changes in our urban ecosystems – so your nice picture of a flower might wind up helping a scientist!

So while we're emerging from our winter hibernation like the plants and animals around us, be sure to take notice of the changes happening around you in our beautiful urban ecosystem. There's a lot to appreciate about our wonderful neighborhood, and there's no better time to be in Audubon Park than in spring. Migratory birds are moving through the area, flowers are emerging, and the trees are waking up!

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

AUDUBON PARK POLICE

Assistant Chief Teddy Laun



Happy Spring, Everyone! Many of you have already heard that I was recently appointed by Mayor Tony Williams as the Chief of Police of the Audubon Park Police Department and confirmed by the Audubon Park City Council. I am truly honored to accept this position and I am very excited about the new challenges on the horizon. We have an amazing group of men and women who have dedicated their lives to law enforcement and their communities. These men and women have many years of experience, a wealth of knowledge and professionalism that is second to none. You will continue to receive the same excellent service from the police department that you have come to expect. I joined the Audubon Park Police Department in January 2014 after retiring as a Major from the Shively Police Department. I have served the City of Audubon Park as a Patrol Officer, a Corporal, and a Sergeant. I have been the Assistant Chief for the last 4 years under the leadership of Chief Mike Minniear. Mike has been devoted to serving the community and bringing the Police Department to a new level throughout his time with us. He will be remaining with us for a short time to assist with this transition. If you see Mike around the Park, please, take time to thank him for his service to the City of Audubon Park and wish him well with his new endeavors. I have personally learned a lot from working with Mike and I will miss him and his support and leadership. I am truly humbled to follow in his footsteps as your Chief of Police.

Our officers did a really great job of keeping crime down in Audubon Park during 2021. We took a total of 31 reports for the year. Of those 31 reports, 6 were collisions. Two reports were taken for criminal mischief (graffiti and vandalism to a police department vehicle). A report was taken regarding a missing juvenile who was located. Another report was taken to document a lost firearm. A report was taken regarding a reckless motorist endangering pedestrians. The only physical assault that was

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reported in Audubon Park was domestic related. We also had one burglary to an unoccupied residence. The remaining 18 reports were theft related. A total of 5 vehicles were stolen from Audubon Park. This sounds like a horribly high number for our area, but all were preventable. Three of the vehicles taken were unlocked and had the keys inside at the time of theft. One was a vehicle that was turned over to an individual and not returned. Once our officers became involved, the vehicle was returned. The final stolen vehicle was taken by a house guest. The vehicle was located and returned to the owner and the thief was arrested. In addition to vehicles taken, two stolen vehicles reported to the Louisville Metro Police Department were recovered inside Audubon Park.

We had 2 reported thefts of contents left inside unlocked vehicles, 2 reported thefts of catalytic converters from vehicles parked in parking lots of apartment buildings and 1 theft of a package from a porch. We received one report of credit card theft. The perpetrator was known to the victim and had been given permission to use the credit card in the past. The remaining theft cases involve theft of identity and unemployment fraud. All of the unemployment fraud cases occurred during the time that the Commonwealth of Kentucky was experiencing great difficulty in managing unemployment claims during the Covid-19 pandemic.

We do not want any of our residents to become victims of any type of crime. You can expect to see general safety tips and reminders to remove valuables from your vehicle and lock your doors. You may see these tips in newsletters, on the Audubon Park Police Department website, on the Nextdoor App and occasionally on the Reach Alert system. If you find yourself in a situation where you need immediate assistance from the police department, do not call City Hall. Please call the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office at (502) 574-5471 and tell them you need the Audubon Park Police. Dispatch will notify an officer immediately and get them to you quickly. I am very excited about stepping into my new role with the Audubon Park Police Department and I look

forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming festivals and community events. Enjoy the beauty of Spring and I will be seeing you all around the Park.

AUDUBON PARK GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Joanne Bader

Brightside Cleanup on April 16th

Audubon Park's Garden Club coordinates the semi-annual Brightside Cleanup each April and October, focusing its efforts on the Preston Street corridor contiguous to the park's Preston entrance. April's cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, April 16th, beginning at 9 am. Marie Eff, a garden club member, is acting as the event's coordinator and will have garden gloves, trash bags, and t-shirts available for all volunteers. It would be helpful if participants could bring rakes, brooms or other tools to help clean up trash, weeds and other debris. Let Marie know if you have teens needing community service hours! She can be reached at 635-7928 if you have any questions. Bring your kids and/or friends to help make our city's entrance more inviting before the Spring dogwood season.

Compost is Considered Garden Gold – for Free!

The Garden Club recently held its February program on composting – focusing on why it is important and how to do it. The program speaker was Jacquelyn McGrail, a master gardener and landscape design consultant and also a frequent speaker at our meetings. She labeled compost as "brown gold" due to its qualities to amend and improve garden soil. She noted that compost is comprised of brown and green materials that ultimately break down to provide rich nitrogen and carbon elements to your garden's soil. "*Brown*" components include fall leaves, twigs, wood chips, older mulch or potting soil and wood ash – all high in carbon. "*Green*" components are usually plant materials, trimmings from garden plants, fruits and vegetables, or washed and crushed egg shells; coffee grounds and tea bags are also included in this category and are all high in nitrogen. When put in bins or compost tumblers (best placed in part shade) and alternating layers of brown and green materials and given air and water, this yields a rich addition to your garden soil and can

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have wonderful results with your planted flower or vegetable gardens. She recommended layering brown materials at the bottom, alternating layers with green then more brown, and ending up with a brown layer on the top. Layering in this fashion creates “hot” compost, derived from the decomposition process, which proceeds faster and kills weed seeds in the process. Ms. McGrail did caution that the following should NOT be put in a compost bin or pile: animal products like meat, bones, dairy products, eggs (washed shells are ok), dog or cat waste or ash from charcoal briquettes. So, if you are thinking of expanding your gardening horizons, consider composting!

Upcoming Garden Club Programs:

The Garden Club is hopeful that the remainder of the year’s scheduled programs will be held as planned. Covid is waning and the weather is warming so we have our fingers crossed! All programs, unless noted otherwise, are held at Audubon Park City Hall, 3340 Robin Road at 1 pm. All are welcome to attend.

Monday, March 14, 2022: “*Hostas*” with guest speaker Dr. Anne Cartwright from *Hostas of Kentuckiana*.

Tuesday, April 12, 2022: “*Monarchs and Milkweeds – Supporting our Native Butterflies*” with Audubon Park resident Amy Shelton as the featured speaker. This program, as part of our Spring Luncheon, will be held at Audubon Park Country Club at 3265 Robin Road at 11:45 am. There is a fee for the luncheon and reservations can be made by contacting Grace Worful at 375-9041.

Monday, May 9, 2022: “*Container Gardening*” with Garden Club member Helen Emily Challis as the featured speaker. This event will be held at 1129 Cardinal Drive at 1 pm.

Winter Care for our Bird Friends

Audubon Park is synonymous with caring for birds – after all the City is recognized as a bird sanctuary. Winter months can be hard for our avian friends and despite it being March, Louisville can continue to have several more weeks of winter weather. Birds

need three things to survive during the winter months: food, water and shelter. Since the supply of insects hibernates or disappears during winter, they need even more assistance with food supply. Suggestions to help include:

Consider adding suet cakes to any bird feeders you might have. They are very inexpensive but provide high quantities of fat which birds need to create body heat. Or you can create your own by melting lard or putting peanut butter into pinecones and adding such treats as cornmeal, oatmeal, raisins, dried fruit or black oil sunflower seeds. (Unfortunately we can’t control the squirrel population from lusting from these treats...!)

Birdseed provides high amounts of carbohydrates that convert to glucose to provide birds with high energy. Look for pre-mixed birdseeds with black oil sunflower seeds and white proso millet; try to avoid cheaper seed mixes that are mostly filler materials like wheat seed and milo. Do not use the striped sunflower seeds which are not nutritious like the black oil sunflower seeds.

Preferably place bird feeders 5-10 feet from shrubs or trees to give them quick access to shelter from potential predators; trees like evergreens and hollies have denser foliage that provides greater protection from both cold and danger. Some of these trees like hollies also provide food in the form of berries. If possible, place your feeders in a south facing area for added protection from cold north winds.

Last but not least, water is crucial for the survival of birds in winter. If you have a birdbath, it is helpful to put a small heater to keep water from freezing, or otherwise break any ice that forms over water.

Although this last tip is a little late, think about not cutting back or deadheading perennials in the fall until at least late February as many species of birds like eating seeds from such plants as coneflowers,

sunflowers, asters, black eyed susans and salvia during the winter time.

Bulbs to Plant That Aren't Enticing to Deer and Rabbits!

We all have had the experience of planting spring bulbs, only to have them dug up and eaten by local wildlife! The following bulbs were recommended in an article by Garden Club of Kentucky Bulletin as providing bright color with no destruction from deer and rabbits: daffodils, Bluebells, grape hyacinth, allium, Fritillaria, Siberian squill, snow drops, winter aconite, Glory-of-the-snow, checkered lily, Dog tooth violets and crown imperial. During these cold winter months, why don't you google these suggestions to see if you'd like to add them to your garden for a beautiful spring display.

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

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

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

- Speed limits and other traffic control measures are strictly enforced, for your safety and security. The City speed limit is 25 mph.
- There is no parking permitted on the street between 2 AM and 6 AM. There is also no parking permitted on the grass. Please inform your visitors of this important information.
- Pets must be leashed or otherwise under their owner's absolute physical control when outside. We now have Dog Waste Stations at each of our parks so please use them when dog walking *and picking up after your pets.*
- Building permits are issued through City Hall and the form can be downloaded from our website under "Building Permit." If you have a project in

mind, please call or come by City Hall for more information on obtaining a permit.

- Yard sale, parades, use of public parks, and other general permits can be applied for online at the "Permit Form" section of our website. Final permits are issued through City Hall. Please call or come by City Hall for more information on obtaining a permit.
- There is a link at our website under "Links" where you can report any streetlights that are out of order directly to LG&E for repairs under "Streetlight Outage Online Form."
- Permits are required for any work on city street easement trees including pruning or removal. Permits allow for the city to confirm tree companies are insured and to ensure the work being done will contribute to the overall health of our urban tree canopy. If you are unsure if your tree is in the easement, contact our Code Enforcement Officer Otto Mock at Audubonparkcodeofficer@gmail.com or 502-554-6105.
- Going on vacation? Leaving town for business? Whatever the reason may be, being away from your home for any length of time can lead to anxiety if you have security concerns. The Audubon Park Police Department House Watch program is designed to provide you with peace of mind by placing your address on a stepped-up patrol list for those living in the City limits of Audubon Park. Officers in your area will be instructed to keep a close eye on your property and to conduct area checks more regularly while you are away. The link for a house watch request is: <https://www.audubonparkky.org/house-watch-request.html>
- A resident Code Enforcement Complaint Form is located at the website so concerned residents can electronically report garbage, debris, graffiti, abandoned vehicles and property, parking, and overgrowth violations. Our Part-Time Code Enforcement Officer is Otto Mock and he can be

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reached at Audubonparkcodeofficer@gmail.com or 502-554-6105.

- There is a link at our website under “Links” where you can “Report A Problem” to MSD regarding stormwater waste issues.
- Please discourage children and others from climbing trees in the various City parks, out of concern for both safety and potential damage.
- Information regarding ash trees and the emerald ash borer is available at City Hall, and on the Forest Board’s archive Web site, *TreeCommittee-APKY.org*.
- Waste of all types – garbage, recycling and yard waste – is collected on Tuesdays (with occasional exceptions for holidays which is usually a day or two later). Garbage is picked up from behind your house, while yard waste and recycling items are to be placed at the curb. Trash can only be set out the day prior to pickup and must be returned by the evening following. Remember, the green cans should not be visible from the street.
- Please wear reflective clothing or other reflective gear – or, better still, carry powered lights – if you are out running, biking or walking in reduced light. It can be very difficult to see you if you are wearing dark clothing! Please take personal responsibility for your safety so accidents don’t occur – you may be harder to see than you think!
- MSD offers rate assistance for senior citizens that are age 65 or older, have a gross annual income of \$35,000 or less and are both Louisville Water and MSD customers. An application can be made for a 30% discount on wastewater charges and the EPA surcharge by calling 502-540-6000.
- Kentucky’s Constitution allows property owners who are 65 or older to receive the Homestead Exemption on their primary residence. If you are eligible to receive the Homestead Exemption, the exemption amount is subtracted from your property’s assessed value, reducing your property tax liability. The Homestead Exemption for 2021-

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!