




The City of Audubon Park Newsletter

The Honorable Madeline Bozeman, Mayor
Cecilia Niemann, City Clerk
Mike Murdoch, Police Chief
City Hall: 3340 Robin Road
www.AudubonParkKY.org
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City Councilmembers:

Michael Hartman
Elyse Shackleton
Brenda Hartman

Pete Becker
Joe Brenner
Austin Schwenker

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FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR BOZEMAN



Hello! This past year has been full of changes, and we are excited to continue the positive momentum.

Many of you had the chance to say farewell to our longtime City Clerk, Janette Mercer, who retired in November. In addition, our former Chief of Police, Teddy Laun, and Assistant Chief of Police, Cheri Bower, also said farewell as they started a new chapter of their lives. We are thankful for Janette Mercer, Major Bower and Chief Laun for their years of service. They were vital to the success of the City of Audubon Park. We luckily were able to identify excellent replacements for the three retirees. We welcome: Cecilia Niemann, City Clerk; Mike Murdoch Chief of Police; and Mike O'Donnell, Assistant Chief of Police. With our new administration and Command Staff, we hope to continue and improve the level of service we offer to each resident.

Many of you know from attending the Meet and Greet Night at City Hall that our garbage contract is up for renewal. As the City Council works on the best option for the City, please be advised that costs for waste hauling are guaranteed to increase. For example, our current cost for all three services is \$204.45 for a single-family residence. Based on comparisons to similar sized cities in Louisville Metro, this increase could be 50% or more. Options such as recycling and yard waste pickup are additions to any standard contract no matter which company we use. Some

companies offer backyard pickup, again at an increased fee, and some offer that service only for those physically unable to bring their cans to the curb. We appreciate all who came out to the Meet and Greet and filled out surveys to help in selecting the new service.

Starting July 1, 2024, our chosen waste company will be "cart contents only" for recycling and garbage. Only materials that will fit inside a specific company's can will be picked up. Rubbermaid cans, Lowe's brand cans, etc., will not be picked up. (This does not apply to yard waste.) Additional cans can be rented at a monthly cost.

The 53rd Dogwood Festival plans have been set for April 13th from 4pm-9pm! We are lucky to have Tori, Olivia, Blaire, and Sara who volunteered to make sure this festival continues. However, we need volunteers to work on the 13th. Please note, that without residents volunteering, these festivals don't have anyone to plan or run them. For more info regarding volunteers sign up using the link on our Facebook or email clerk@audubonparkky.org

When your dogwood trees and spring flowers begin to bloom, please light them up. While we don't have an exact date of when the flowers will bloom, we want to continue our wonderful tradition of the "Lighting of the Dogwoods" and have our City glowing during the Dogwood Festival.

Thank YOU!

- Thank you to the interview committee who selected Chief Mike Murdoch which led to the appointment of Assistant Chief Mike O'Donnell. We are lucky residents!
- To those who keep their sidewalks clear and clean up after their pets, thank you!
- Everyone who volunteered to decorate the city streetlights, you made this city gorgeous during the holidays.
- Participants and donors of our first ever Chili Cook Off, we thank you! This was a huge success for our City and honored our Law Enforcement! We plan on hosting another Cook Off this fall, so start practicing your best recipes now!

AUDUBON PARK POLICE

Mike Murdoch- Police Chief



Happy Spring! My name is Mike Murdoch, and I am the new Chief of Police. I am honored and grateful for the opportunity to serve as Chief of Police of the Audubon Park Police Department. I thank Mayor Bozeman, the interview committee, the City Council, and the residents for entrusting me with this important responsibility. I am eager to contribute to our beautiful city's continued growth and prosperity. Assistant Chief Mike O'Donnell and I have been blessed to patrol this city for the last few years and are thankful to assume these new roles.

I want to sincerely thank Teddy Laun for her outstanding service as our last Chief of Police. Her leadership, dedication, and commitment to ensuring our community safety did not go unnoticed. Teddy was a true asset to our city and police department for ten years. I wish her a stress-free retirement!

We currently have a great group of officers working to keep our city safe. Our average years of service per officer is just over 26 years! This is unmatched at any local agency. Having an experienced group of officers with various backgrounds allows us to provide a better service to you.

You may have noticed that some of our

vehicles have part of their blue lights on when patrolling. We do this to increase our visibility not only to the residents, but also to anyone who may be considering committing a crime in Audubon Park. Being more visible is just one component of our community policing effort moving forward.

Thank you to those who were able to attend our Meet and Greet event at City Hall. Several people brought their concerns to us, and we have already worked to address all of these. We will continue to monitor progress as we move forward. If you have an ongoing issue that needs to be addressed by the police, please do not hesitate to call. My office number is 502-637-5066 ext. 310. As always, if you require an immediate response from the police, contact our dispatch at 502-574-5471 and they will send an officer out.



FOREST BOARD NEWS

Aaron Morris- Chairperson

Spring planting season is almost here! As of right now, thirteen of your neighbors have signed up to get a new tree from the Forest Board. We hope a lot more of you will join them.

We hope to see basswoods, tulip poplars, Kentucky yellowwoods and more delivered soon. For only \$150 you can get a GREAT sized new tree, planted and set up in the location of your choice. Whether it's in or out of the easement – give us a call! We want your help to maintain our wonderful tree canopy in Audubon Park.

Remember, if you want to walk in the shade in the future, plant a tree this year. We're really proud of this program we're offering, and we hope you are too!

As always, if you have any tree-related questions or concerns feel free to email me at aaronlane@gmail.com or call or text at 502-641-7810. You can also leave a message with my dog Wallace who runs along the fence at

the corner of Linnet and Cardinal. Fair warning though – he's terrible about delivering them.

AUDUBON PARK GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Joanne Bader

Audubon Park Garden Club Celebrates 95th Anniversary

Audubon Park Garden Club will mark the 95th anniversary of its founding in March, 2024, although they celebrated early at its February meeting with a special luncheon, cake and historical scrapbooks. As many residents know, Audubon Park was first developed in the early 1900s as an approximately 600-acre residential community with multiple green spaces and parks to maintain a natural environment. The streets were all named after birds in honor of the renowned artist and ornithologist, John J. Audubon. Although a few early homes were built before WW1, most were constructed afterwards.

The first meeting of the newly formed Audubon Park Garden Club was held in March, 1929 with a group of 10 ladies, led by Mrs. John Heil as its first president. The original purpose of the group was to communicate and share ideas about yard landscaping, tree planting and bird watching. Early events even included the formation of a choir that would traverse the neighborhood singing Christmas carols. During WW2, the club actively promoted the planting of dogwoods in residential yards and public parks to honor family members serving in the Armed Forces. Eventually, this led to the development of the annual Festival of the Dogwood in 1971 under the leadership of club member, Marjorie Davis, to spotlight the beauty of the spring dogwood blossoms and to support the beautification of Audubon Park as well as community spirit. Those early Dogwood Festivals featured 6 nights of events with band concerts, focused spotlights on all dogwood trees, and a bevy of Club members dressed as Southern Belles who served cookies and coffee to area residents.

Over the years, both the City of Audubon Park and its Garden Club have evolved considerably. The Festival of the Dogwood

now is planned and operated with the assistance of City Hall and many residents. The Garden Club over the years has held Garden tours showcasing local city gardens, has held a multi-year Arts and Craft festival which has morphed into Auktoberfest, and still continues to host many educational programs from September to June each year to which all residents and their guests are invited. The Garden Club sponsors the Memorial Tree and Bench program to honor loved ones and provide an inviting atmosphere in city parks and along easements; there is also a memorial rain garden planted in Curlew Park in honor of long-time member, Sara Pope who served as tree advisor to the city for decades. In addition, many men have joined the Garden Club as well as non-residents as the Club strives to promote inclusiveness and continue its love of gardening to all.

Congratulations to the Audubon Garden Club on this amazing milestone!

COMMUNICATIONS

Have a question? Want to be signed up for our community alerts by voice, email or text? Feel free to reach out to City Clerk and she can help you! 502.637.5066

Scan this code to be taken directly to our communication page.



Other ways to receive info from Audubon Park! Facebook Pages:

Audubon Park City Hall

Audubon Park Police Department,



Please visit our website, www.audubonparkky.org which is the City's open archive of municipal reference data & more!

Brightside Cleanup Next Scheduled for Saturday, April 13th

This year, Brightside has scheduled its spring cleanup date a week earlier than usual, on Saturday, April 13th. Audubon Park has participated in this local event for over a decade, focusing its efforts on cleaning litter

and weeds from the City's entrance and contiguous areas on Preston Highway under the aegis of the Audubon Park Garden Club. Marie Eff, a Garden Club member, will help oversee this event, starting at 9 am, and will provide trash bags, garden gloves and some gardening tools to help with the cleanup. Volunteers are needed – and even students needing service hours are welcome – and encouraged to also bring their own brooms, weeders, dustpans and rakes. The timing of the event is perfect as mid-April heralds to start of the glorious Dogwood season in spring which brings many visitors from around Louisville to visit and enjoy the beauty of Audubon Park. If you have any questions, please contact Marie Eff at 635-7928. Please plan to volunteer for an hour or two!



Volunteerism in Audubon Park – A Cautionary Tale

When I first moved into Audubon Park over 30 years ago, the city was known for its festivals and community spirit – even likened to being

like “Mayberry RFD”. Among those community sponsored events were the Fall Arts and Crafts Festival and Festival of the Dogwood, both sponsored at that time by the Audubon Park Garden Club. Over a weekend in the fall, Audubon Park held a 2-day arts and crafts festival in Oriole Park with food, games for children and many beautiful booths with local artisans and their wares. However, the Garden Club was forced to end the Fall Festival, due to lack of volunteer manpower to handle the various activities, setup and cleanup required – and many residents were extremely upset at its demise as a result. The problem is that everyone loves going to such events but most don't realize these events can't operate without volunteer participation and support. As the age of participants in the Garden Club has increased, many of our members no longer can actively help as much, which is why Audubon Park took over the planning and operation of the Festival of the Dogwood and initially this event fell under the control of the Parks and Recreation Committee which grew the festival into an even larger event. But participation in the Parks and Rec committee has dwindled and volunteerism at the event is often a desperate plea to friends and relatives of the organizers at the last minute. Bottom line – this is a plea to all residents to volunteer your time even for an hour or two so that the City can continue to hold these wonderful family-oriented festivals every year! You will still have time to enjoy the festivals after your volunteer shift, and by so doing, ensure that the tradition of these festivals continues for years to come! The Audubon Park Garden Club Extends an Invitation to Join and to Attend Upcoming Programs

The Garden Club hosts educational programs and field trips monthly from September to June, with the exception of the month of January. Programs are open to all residents and their guests and are held at Audubon Park City Hall, 3340 Robin Road, beginning at 1 p.m. (unless otherwise noted). We would like to invite everyone to consider joining the Garden Club, noting that membership is no longer

restricted to Audubon Park residents. In recent years, we have seen several non-residents join as well as several husband/wife couples: the annual cost of membership is \$35 per individual and \$65 per couple. If you are interested in joining, please contact Membership Chair Janet Shumate at 636-0111.

Following is a list of upcoming programs for the rest of the 2023-2024 program year:

Monday, March 11, 2024: "Raptor Rehab Rescues" with a guest speaker from Raptor Rehabilitation of Kentucky, Inc. This program will be held at Audubon Baptist Church, 1046 Hess Lane at 1 p.m.

Wednesday, April 10, 2024: "Development of a Heritage Park" with guest speaker Susan Rademacher, Executive Director, Origin Park/River Heritage Conservancy. This program serves as the Garden Club's Spring Luncheon and Installation of Officers; it will be held at Audubon Country Club, 3265 Robin Road at 11:45 a.m. There is a fee for the luncheon and reservations are required. Please contact Marie Eff at 635-7928 or Anita Garrison at 939-6601 for more information or reservations.

Monday, May 13, 2024: "Introduction to the Bonsai Plant" with guest speaker, Russell Stevens, a horticulturist as well as arborist and Bonsai Artist. Mr. Stevens also owns Twisted Nature Bonsai.

Tuesday, June 11, 2024: "A Self-Guided Tour of Yew Dell Botanical Gardens" - a field trip to Yew Dell Botanical Garden, 6220 Old LaGrange Road, Crestwood, KY 40014. Members and guests should plan to meet at Audubon Park City Hall at 10 am to carpool to Yew Dell.

News You Can Use

- Permits are required for any work on city street easement trees including pruning or removal. Tree companies must have insurance.
- Otto Mock is the Audubon Park Code Enforcement Officer. If you have questions about tree pruning, building plans, or would like to make a complaint regarding a violation, please reach out to Otto. 502-554-6105 codeenforcement@audubonparkky.org

- Please do not climb the trees in our parks.
- Kentucky's Constitution allows property owners who are 65 or older to receive the Homestead Exemption on their primary residence. Contact the PVA for more information.
- Trash can only be set out the day prior to pickup and must be removed from the street the day of garbage collection. Any mattresses or upholstered furniture set out for pickup must be wrapped in plastic.

2024 PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS

Hybrid community meeting to learn more about the upcoming 2024 property assessment and your right to appeal. Attend in person at the Douglass Community Center, 2305 Douglass Blvd., Louisville Kentucky 40205 on April 9, 2024 at 6:30 pm. or join us online at the link below:

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Apr 9, 2024 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Area 2 You Have a Right to Appeal Meeting Douglass Community Center
<https://http://bit.ly/3O0mLTr>

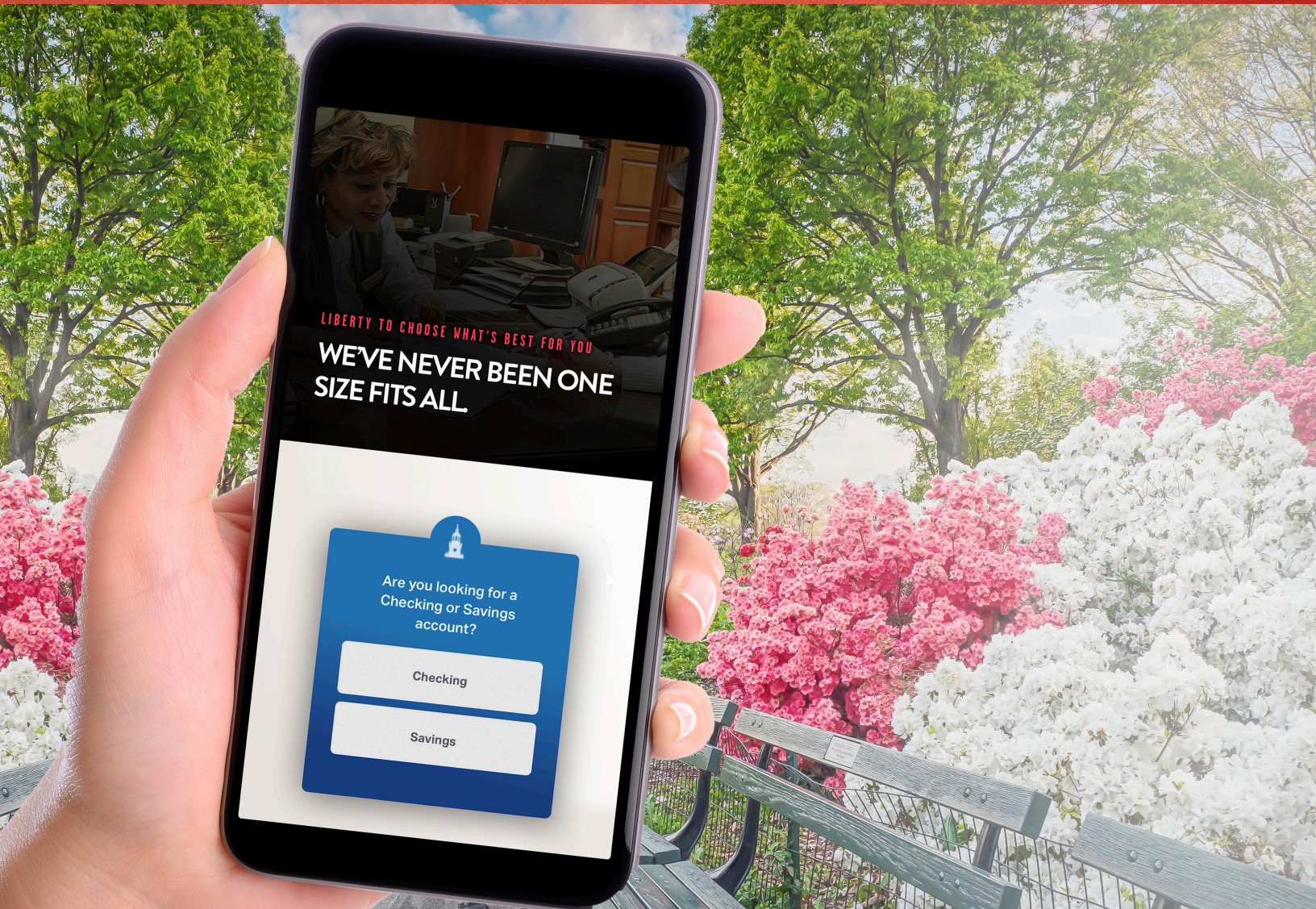
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.



WASTE MANAGEMENT SCHEDULE

March 6—All Services	April 3—All Services
March 13—Trash & Yard Waste	April 10—Trash & Yard Waste
March 20—All Services	April 17—All Services
March 27—Trash & Yard Waste	April 24—Trash & Yard Waste
May 1—All Services	June 5— Trash & Yard Waste
May 8— Trash & Yard Waste	June12—All Services
May 15—All Services	June 19— Trash & Yard Waste
May 22— Trash & Yard Waste	June 26—All Services
May 30—All Services	

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