




The Official Newsletter of The City of Audubon Park

Tony Williams, Mayor
Janette Mercer, City Clerk
City Hall: 3340 Robin Road
637-5066
www.AudubonParkKY.org
 Audubon Park City Hall



City Council:

Jennifer Kleier
Brittney Gorter
Andrew Klump

Madeline Bozeman
Austin Schwenker
Stephanie George

Issue 91

September 2020

FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR WILLIAMS

Tony Williams

It's an election year so most of this fall edition needs to focus on just that. But first, a brief recap of the city's latest developments. The recodification of ordinances is now complete. This process should have been happening every 5 years and hasn't been completed in nearly 26 years. The ordinance will soon arrive in the mail but the complete 168 pages can be found by visiting the website link: https://www.audubonparkky.org/uploads/1/2/4/8/124861950/ap_full_code_recodification_2020.pdf

The employee handbook has also been updated as that last update was almost 7 years old. I appreciate the city council's patience and diligence in finally completing both the recodification and the employee handbook projects.

Currently, only 5 candidates for Audubon Park city council have filed as a write-in candidate to run for office and we need at least one more city council write-in candidate to run. Please consider running for city council of Audubon Park, which is a 2 year term (January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022). The minimum commitment is a monthly meeting that averages one to two hours in duration. By serving on city council, you make a difference in helping manage Audubon Park's affairs, and guide its future.

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

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

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

SPECIAL SECTION: ELECTION 2020

There's an election coming up. While their names won't be printed on the ballot, election officials have the list of their names. Only the write-in candidates that have filed before the 4p.m. 10/23/2020 deadline will be counted for the official election day results. Council candidates that have filed at the date of this publication were invited to respond to the format below. The responses below are in the order that were received. Unfortunately, there will not be an in person candidate forum this year due to COVID-19 concerns.



Name: Andrew J. Klump
Lived in AP since: 2003
Phone: 502-641-0276
E-Mail: andrewkaududbon@gmail.com

Family: Youngest son of William and Barbara Klump

Employment: Corporate Attorney

Activities/Interest: Avid tennis player and coach
Basketball fanatic.

Education: J.D.- the University of Louisville
Brandeis School of Law- 2019

B.A. in Political Science and B.S. in Computer
Science - St. Joseph's College- 2016

St. Xavier High School- 2012

Reason for interest in City government: During my undergraduate and law school studies, I took a keen interest in policy development and legislation. That passion has yet to fade, and has provided me the unique skills and opportunity to give back to the community, fulfilling my desire to contribute to community development.

Three highest priorities in office (in no order):

1. Sidewalk redevelopment.
2. Preston Highway business redevelopment.
3. Ensure future financial stability.

Additional remarks: I first decided to run for office 4 years ago, and have enjoyed my time serving the community. I'd relish the opportunity of a third term to continue bettering the city we care deeply about.



Name: Madeline Bozeman

Phone: 502-472-7243

E-Mail: madelinebaudubon@gmail.com

Family: Married to Matt Bozeman and daughter of Joe and Leslie Mittel. Seven siblings, five of whom live in the park, and two who live out of state.

Employment: JCPS teacher at Brandeis Elementary

Activities/Interest: Local government, traveling, reading, baking, and gardening.

Education: BS Business Management; Masters of Arts in Teaching, Elementary Education, Literacy Specialist P-12

Reason for interest in City government: I grew up in Audubon Park and have lived here a majority of my life. I value our city and the unique governance structure and would love to represent friends, family, and neighbors to ensure their voices are heard. Continuing to make Audubon Park a safe place to live is a high priority of mine.

Three highest priorities in office:

1. Community safety: decreasing petty theft, speeding, and break-ins.
2. Increase community involvement: continue and expand existing programs by involving all residents- fall festivals, block parties, garden club, and work days in the park.

Name: Austin Schwenker

Lived in AP since: 1999

E-Mail: austinsaudubon@gmail.com

Family: Parents live in the park and brother who lives outside of Louisville.

Employment: Pharmaceutical Sales Specialist

Activities/Interest:

Education: BSBA Marketing, Entrepreneurship, Management (University of Louisville); Saint Xavier High School; Saint Stephen Martyr



Name: Michael Hartman

Lived in AP since: 2013, but have lived right outside the border for my entire life.

E-Mail: dad@mccatdad.com

Family: Son of Mike and Martha Hartman. I live with my wife Anna, several cats, and a rescue beagle mix named Biscuit.

Employment: Information Security

Activities/Interest: I'm a trivia host emeritus who is really into pinball machines.

Education: B.S. Computer Engineering from University of Louisville JB School of Engineering. St. X class of 2002

Three highest priorities in office (in no order):

1. Make Audubon Park welcoming to everyone.
 2. Keep Audubon Park a park and preserve the tree canopy to create an oasis from the heat island effect.
 3. Improve sidewalks, as parks should be walkable.
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Name: Daniel Stephen

Lived in AP: 14 Years

Family: Wife, 2 kids, and a dog

Employment: Self-employed

Audubon Park Contributions: Parks & Rec Board Chair- Helped start new neighborhood festivals Light Up Audubon and Auktoberfest. Also contributed to 4th of July parade and Dove Road block party. Helped finalize swing installs in park. Spearheaded the purchase, stain, and installs of new wooden public garbage cans in all the parks.

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Liason efforts in finalizing new water/dog station in Cross Bill (Triangle) park. Painted and restored many of the fire hydrants in Audubon Park. Helped in all areas of the entrance column restorations including tuckpointing of the 100 year old entrance columns, power outlets, landscaping lights, and outlets. Attended many previous council meetings and currently help with delivery of City Newsletters.

Three highest priorities in office (in no order):

1. Signage
2. Sidewalk repairs
3. Park improvement additions

FOREST BOARD NEWS

Michael Blum- Chairperson

Watching the fall color develop in the leaves of the beautiful trees in our neighborhood is a favorite aspect of fall for many. They remind us to take a break, to slow down, and to rest, as the natural environment around us is preparing to do over the winter. However, before many of us are able to relax, we often have to deal with all of those leaves once they fall to the ground!

When apparent problems arise, patterns in nature often provide ways to turn the problem into the solution. In particular, the forest floor offers a pattern that provides insight on how we can utilize those fallen tree leaves. In order to do so, it helps to understand some of the basic functions of trees in ecosystems.

Tree roots stretch deep into the soil beneath our feet. Some scientists and arborists estimate that the root system of trees beneath the ground is comparable in size to the canopy of the tree that we see above the ground. In addition to holding soil in place, these roots collect water for the tree as well as collect nutrients from deeper within the earth's soil. These nutrients then move up the tree and take place in tree's leaves, where carbon dioxide and water are utilized to create sugars that provide energy for the life processes of the tree. At the end of the season, the leaves fall to the earth, and with them, they carry the nutrients that were once deep in the soil to the surface of the soil.

Once on the surface of the soil, insects such as ants and beetles begin to shred the leaves into small pieces. As the leaves are broken down, smaller microorganisms such as bacteria and fungi can then begin to feed on the remnants of the tree leaves. As these smaller organisms continue to break down the leaves, the nutrients and carbon that were stored in the leaves become available to other plants with shallower root systems, such as herbs and grasses. In effect, the leaves become a form of fertility for other plants!

Additionally, the fungi that help complete the final stage of decomposition of the leaves form beneficial networks underground with tree roots, helping to transfer water and nutrients between trees. It is estimated that a handful of forest soil contains over twenty miles of fungal filaments called hyphae [1]! This fungal network forms nature's version of the internet, distributing nutrients, sugars, and water to different trees and plants. Without such a network, the forest as we know it would not exist!

The question then becomes how we can use the forest's model at our homes. One method is to use the mulching feature of your lawn mower to break the leaves into tiny bits and pieces much as the ants and beetles would do in the forest. Once finely mulched, the leaves can be left on the surface of the lawn to decompose naturally, allowing the nutrients stored in the leaves to feed the microorganisms in the soil and ultimately feed your lawn. This may save you the time of raking while providing the benefit of additional nutrition for the grasses and herbs that many of us value.

Alternatively, leaves can be placed in a large pile similar to a compost pile. Leaves placed in a pile should be allowed to simply sit for a year, with no watering or turning required. The leaf pile will shrink significantly in size over the course of the year as the leaves breakdown through weathering and the action of microorganisms. At the end of the year, the remaining substance, called leaf mold, will be a rich black color, have a light, airy texture, and smell of the forest floor. Leaf mold has many of the same wonderful properties as peat moss but it has

additional nutrient value and can be produced sustainably in our own backyards! Leaf mold can be used as a medium to begin vegetable seedlings for a home garden, it can be used as a soil amendment in landscape or garden projects, or it can be used as a mulch around trees and shrubs just as the forest uses it. Even when the trees appear to be dormant, they continue to provide for the systems around them if we are wise enough to see their ways.

Lastly, the city forester has completely a tree inventory of all of Audubon Park. An inventory such as this has not been completed since 2012. The information collected through this inventory will help shape the next five year plan which the board is currently constructing. I plan to share more about the inventory in the next newsletter. As always, if you are interested in joining the Forest Board or planting a tree, please contact the chairperson, Michael Blum, through email, phone call, or text message at Michael.blum13@gmail.com or 502-396-4029.

1. Phillips, Michael. *The Holistic Orchard: Tree Fruits and Berries the Biological Way*. White River Junction, VT: Chelsea Green, 2012.

AUDUBON PARK POLICE

Chief Mike Minniear

It is no secret that the City of Louisville is experiencing the highest crimes rates in history. I want to reinforce to you the Audubon Park Police is keeping you safe as we have always in the past. Doug Sweeney was Chief until October 2017. He made me his Deputy Chief in 2014 and the Mayor promoted me to Chief when Chief Doug Sweeney left for another job. It is of the utmost importance to me to prevent a violent crime from happening in Audubon Park and to always have an environment that residents feel safe walking in. Audubon Park is a very active neighborhood. This helps to prevent crime. Please remember to call 502-574-5471 if you see suspicious activity. Audubon Park Police response times average three minutes. Residents

reporting suspicious activity to police is the # 1 reason for low crime in Audubon Park, in my opinion. Every officer I have hired since becoming Chief is still working for the Audubon Park Police Department. This is the other main reason I believe crime is so low. We have officers that do not work here for the money as they love everything about the City of Audubon Park. If a communities police officers are committed to keeping a community safe and get out of their patrol cars to speak with community members and wave with a smile as they pass community members; I believe this creates trust in the community and is the perfect formula for have a safe neighborhood. This is what the City of Audubon Park has. I want to thank the community for supporting its officers because it is the best motivator for a police officer to want to do a good job. I hope everyone had a great Summer!

Fall is upon us and here are a few ***SAFETY TIPS:***

1) Please remember to drive safely. Leaves are starting to fall from the trees and can make the road more slippery at times.

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

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

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

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

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

7) Avoid door to door solicitors, especially concrete or roof repairmen. Never pay anyone for work before repairs are made. Your city ordinances prohibit

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soliciting. If anyone is soliciting, contact your on-duty police officer by calling 574-5471. Exception to solicitation laws are political and religious groups or affiliations.

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

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

10) When riding your bicycle day or night, make sure that your clothes do not blend into the environment. "Be Seen" and make sure that drivers and pedestrians can see you. Always have reflective equipment and lighting on yours and your child's bicycles. YOU WALK AGAINST TRAFFIC, YOU RIDE YOUR BIKE THE SAME DIRECTION AS TRAFFIC!!!! (This has been a problem)

One final note. We have recently had a truck drive through Audubon Park and steal a very nice Scooter and Mini-bike. This type of behavior is happening all over Jefferson County. Please be aware that thieves are picking up motorcycles and putting them in the back of trucks to steal.

AUDUBON PARK GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Joanne Bader

Audubon Park Garden Club News

Like everyone else, the Audubon Park Garden Club has had to put much of its schedule of activities on hiatus during the Covid-19 pandemic. Much of this is due to concern for the health of its members, while lack of meeting spaces for group usage has also dried up.

However, the Garden Club was fortunate to hold its September meeting (postponed from last spring) recently at the new Waterfront Botanical Gardens on Frankfort Ave. It was sort of a sneak peek viewing of the recently completed portions of the first phase of development which included the Graeser Family Education Center, a pollinator garden and the Beargrass Creek Pathway and Waterfall Stream.

Next phase plans include the building of educational classrooms with a teaching greenhouse and a Japanese garden. We were fortunate to have this opportunity which allowed viewing and learning about the gardens in a safe, socially-distanced manner. If you have the opportunity to visit the Waterfront Botanical Gardens, you will be in for a treat and it is only going to become bigger and better in the coming years!

Weather permitting, our October meeting will be held on Monday, October 12th at 1 pm focusing on Orchids at the home of club member, Ann Hurst, at 3317 Linnet Road. Ann cultivates orchids and will provide a program about them in her backyard for anyone who has an interest in learning more about these beautiful plants. If you plan to attend, bring a folding chair as well as a mask and beverage.

Weather may impact the Garden Club's ability to hold additional educational programs going into late fall and the winter. To continue expanding our educational mission, while working around the constraints of COVID-19, the Garden Club is looking into a program to provide tree identification within Audubon Park, whether within the City's five parks or on resident properties, with initial focus on the properties of Garden Club members (an incentive to join the Garden Club!)

Free Tree Donation Program

In the recent newsletter from Councilman Pat Mulvihill, it was noted the TreesLouisville in partnership with the Arbor Day Foundation, is providing 700 free trees to Louisville residents. All you need to do is go to the website:

www.arborday.org/treeslouisville to reserve your tree. Species available include: Redbud, Sugar Maple, Sycamore, American Beech, Black Gum, Willow, Oak and Tulip Poplar. Trees are expected to arrive in late October or early November. We all know of the importance of preserving the tree canopy to help combat global warming, especially in Louisville which suffers from being a heat island; so this is a wonderful way to help the local environment as well as add to the beauty of your landscaping.

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Transition Outdoor Pots Inside for Winter

A timely reminder from September 2020 volume of The Bulletin which is published by The Garden Club of Kentucky, Inc. reminds us that as fall approaches, it is time to make preparations to bring plants inside for winter. Their recommendations include:

- Clean your plants by submerging them, including the pot, into soapy water for 15-20 mins, then rinse and allow them to drain. If plants are too large to do so, use a spray of 1 tsp mild liquid soap per 1 liter of water to disinfect them.
- OR buy organic insecticidal soap spray, making sure to scrub the outside of pots as well. If bugs are detected, spray them with neem oil.

We hope that by the next newsletter in December that we will be able to announce more activities and programs for the spring.

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. 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>

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- 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. Do not place garbage at the curb as only yard waste and recycling are to be placed at the curb. Be sure to report any missed collection to City Hall.
 - Please wear reflective clothing or other reflective gear – or, better still, carry powered lights – if you are out running, biking or walking in reduced light. It can be very difficult to see you if you are wearing dark clothing! Please take personal responsibility for your safety so accidents don’t occur – you may be harder to see than you think!
 - MSD offers rate assistance for senior citizens that are age 65 or older, have a gross annual income of \$35,000 or less and are both Louisville Water and MSD customers. An application can be made for a 30% discount on wastewater charges and the EPA surcharge by calling 502-540-6000.
 - Kentucky’s Constitution allows property owners who are 65 or older to receive the Homestead Exemption on their primary residence. If you are eligible to receive the Homestead Exemption, the exemption amount is subtracted from your property’s assessed value, reducing your property tax liability. The Homestead Exemption for 2019-2020 is \$39,300. Only one exemption (Homestead or Disability) is allowed per household. Once approved for the Homestead Exemption, you are not required to reapply annually. You are eligible for the Homestead Exemption on residential or commercial property as long as you own and occupy the property as your primary residence and meet all other qualifying criteria.
 - Audubon Park has a Little Free Library located at the intersection of Wren and Audubon Parkway. The Little Free Library is a book/magazine/DVD/CD exchange for adults and children where you are free to drop off or take materials located in the outdoor book holder. The library steward is Amanda Thompson. If you have questions, concerns, or comments, please feel free to call, text or email her at 502-931-0790 or amt924@hotmail.com.

COMMUNICATIONS

The City of Audubon Park is committed to a maximum flow of information and civic dialogue, and has a variety of platforms for these purposes:

- This quarterly **newsletter** with updates, reports and discussions of City programs, events, services and facilities. The newsletter is published on the Web site, social media, email subscriber list, and now delivered 4 times a year in print.
- The **Web site**, *AudubonParkKY.org*, which is the City’s open archive of municipal reference data – organizational, historical, fiscal, legal, and social. Links are also provided to the other media listed.
- **Two Social media** pages on Facebook are in use to make announcements, schedule activities and events, exchange ideas, and promote dialogue:

Audubon Park City Hall, the main civic page and **Audubon Park Police Department**, focusing on law enforcement and public safety. Be sure to like both pages in order to receive communication from them. *Audubon Park Residents, Friends of Audubon Park, and Friends & Residents of Audubon Park* are not official Audubon Park Facebook pages.

- **Nextdoor** is social networking site that brings back good old-fashioned neighborhood chatter between your neighbors across the street and you. It puts you in touch with folks down the block and even people a few miles down the road. Nextdoor is also like Facebook, where you can scan through your contacts' posts and photos, and you can post your own messages and photos. You might alert those neighbors to prowlers you spotted in the neighborhood. Your neighbors might recommend a good plumber or mechanic. They could also tell you

about yard sales or appliances they're giving away. Or you can alert them to a stray dog you found.

- An **email subscriber list** distributing the newsletter and notices of City activities and events. Please sign up on the Web site, under the Resident Information tab, at "Audubon Park News."
- **ReachAlert** is an urgent notification system, with email, text or voicemail options, for emergency and other alert messages. Please subscribe to this system, on the same page, at "ReachAlert."
- The variety of regular public Council and board meetings are listed on the **Web calendar**.
- Or, just dropping by **City Hall**, for information or an informal chat (when COVID-19 is over).

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