




# The Official Newsletter of The City of Audubon Park

*Tony Williams, Mayor*  
*Janette Mercer, City Clerk*  
*Mike Minniear, Police Chief*

City Hall: 3340 Robin Road  
 637-5066

[www.AudubonParkKY.org](http://www.AudubonParkKY.org)  
 Audubon Park City Hall



*City Council:*

<i>Michael Hartman</i>	<i>Madeline Bozeman</i>
<i>Daniel Stephen</i>	<i>Austin Schwenker</i>
<i>Andrew Klump</i>	<i>Elyse Shackleton</i>

Issue 95

September 2021

## FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR WILLIAMS

*Tony Williams*

Unfortunately, Waste Management is still having staffing issues that is disrupting our sanitation services. The schedule for October will be garbage and yard waste (no recycle) on 10/12, all services on 10/19, and garbage and yard waste (no recycle) on 10/26. Any services missed from 7/1 to 10/5 was credited by Waste Management via our tax bill. We are waiting to see what or if any services will be missed in future months. Best guess is yard waste will not be interrupted in the future but recycling could go to every other week until staffing issues are resolved. We will continue to do our best with updates as we receive them. Our contact for Waste Management is Andy Reynolds whose e-mail is [kreynol2@wm.com](mailto:kreynol2@wm.com).

Everyone should have now received their tax bills in the mail. As usual, we will be sure to provide grace periods so everyone has a full 30 days to respond. If paying in person, the best time to catch the City Clerk is noon to 3pm (Monday thru Thursday). If dropping by after hours, there is a mail slot located in the front of City Hall. Should you choose USPS mail, our address is 3340 Robin Road, 40213. And finally, new this year- we added an online payment option for your convenience located at the link: <https://secure.kentucky.gov/formservices/AudubonPark/PropertyTax>

The delay this year in sending out the tax bills was due to this year being a property re-assessment year. Since property values went up considerably, Audubon Park adjusted the tax rate by lowering it. The tax rate dropped significantly from \$0.28 per \$100 to \$0.24 per \$100 of assessed home value. Ad valorem tax rates on personal property haven't been this low in over 17 years!

Mark Adams, our part-time city engineer, is actively working on the sidewalk hazard project. Penny pinching budgeting efforts have allowed us to repair the worst sidewalk hazards and we will also be shaving additional hazards in the upcoming weeks. Look for this initial phase of the sidewalk project to be completed within a month. Our city engineer is also working with MSD on several right-of-way erosion issues and an overall master plan for Audubon Park.

I am kindly asking residents to strongly consider power washing or hosing off debris and mud from the sidewalks along with weed eating or removing any grass, weeds, or vegetation currently on any sidewalk in front of your home. Ordinance 90.015 does not allow any tree branches, bushes, hedges, shrubs, or other obstructions that prevent the public from free use of the sidewalks. With more people actively walking these days, please make keeping

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our sidewalks clean and free of debris and obstructions a priority.

Considerations may be given to an October 30<sup>th</sup> Halloween date if inclement weather is expected on Halloween. Otherwise, it will be held on October 31<sup>st</sup>.

It's not too early to start thinking about next year's election cycle, which will include balloting for the offices of Mayor and all six Council seats. City Council is a 2 year term and Mayor is a 4 year term. We also are always in need of volunteers for future civic events such as Dogwood Festival. Please consider running for office or volunteering in the future.

Thanks for your confidence and support as we work together to continue to move our great city forward. Have a safe and fantastic fall!

### **FOREST BOARD NEWS**

*Aaron Morris- Chairperson*

Happy autumn, everyone! I hope you're enjoying the cooler weather and getting out to enjoy the cool shade of our urban tree canopy.

While you're out walking, you might have noticed that many of the dogwoods in the park don't look so great. There are several reasons for this, and we're addressing the issues with trees in the public parks. Here I'll give you some advice from our city forester on your own trees.

First, the dogwoods look distressed for several reasons – one is simply weather. The ice storm we had in February followed by an unusually hot spring and summer didn't do these trees any favors. Many of you might also have heard of the dogwood anthracnose, a condition caused by a fungus called *Discula Destructive*. This is certainly an issue in this region but in normal circumstances – a tree can fight off this fungus itself. Trees are very resilient, and it's rarely just one thing that brings them to severe ill health – it's a combination of things at the same time.

In the public park spaces we have begun a program to help the dogwoods fight back. Our city forester Ryan Lewis has loosened up the soil around the roots, and applied liquid and granular treatments to the 88 dogwoods in the parks. We have additional treatments planned for the fall and spring as well. We believe this will strengthen the overall health of the trees over the coming year, and allow them to return to full health.

For your own dogwoods, there are several steps you can take right away to help them along. Carefully loosening the soil around the trunk and any visible root can help a lot. Also – mulching widely around the trunk is surprisingly helpful to trees. Mulching provides several benefits: First it keeps us from hitting the trunk and exposed roots with lawn mowers and string trimmers. This is a big trauma to a small tree! Secondly, since mulch is made of organic matter like tree bark, that organic matter will slowly decay. When it does, it leeches into the soil and provides much needed nutrients to the tree. If you've loosened the soil around the roots under the mulch, it especially helps the tree get the nutrients it needs to fight off infections, disease and insects. What we are not recommending currently is calling a commercial tree service to spray your dogwoods. These treatments are often one-size-fits-all sprays that can sometimes put more stress on the tree if they're not applied for exactly the right cause. Trees are tough, and it usually takes more than one bad year to damage them permanently. The dogwoods are especially important to us here in Audubon Park because of their significance to the history of the neighborhood and the long-running Dogwood Festival. We're hoping these measures help them bounce back as strong as ever in the next couple years.

Another project your forest board has underway is the fall tree planting season. We're working diligently to maintain and restore the vibrant tree canopy we all enjoy so much. For this, we need your help! I'm asking you to do something that is often difficult – I want you to try and notice something that *is not there*. Noticing something that is missing is much more difficult than spotting something that's

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out of place. But I want you to look for open spaces where trees *aren't*. These are opportunities! We want our streets to be well-lined with the beautiful trees that so distinguish and differentiate Audubon Park from other urban neighborhoods in Louisville. If you have a space in your yard where a tree could grow, let me know! We'll work with you to select a great tree of your choosing and plan to add it to the planting list! We can even show you examples of unique and beautiful trees elsewhere in the park that you could have in your yard. If you see an open spot in a neighbor's yard that could use a tree, talk to them about it! Encourage them to reach out to the forest board! We'll work to select a great tree we can all enjoy for years to come, and homeowners will enjoy the savings on the LG&E bill from a shadier, cooler home in the summer.

If you see an opportunity, feel free to reach out to me directly. I'm Aaron Morris – your new chair of the Forest Board. I live on Widgeon Avenue with my wife, our 17 month old son and three dogs. You might have seen my wife and I walking with our son Porter, or our dog Wallace – who I believe has the distinction of having the floppiest ears in Audubon Park. You can reach me at [aaronlane@gmail.com](mailto:aaronlane@gmail.com) or text me at 502-641-7810 to talk trees!

### **AUDUBON PARK POLICE**

*Assistant Chief Teddy Laun*



It is hard to believe that it is Fall already! We have so much happening in Audubon Park. There is an expansion project going on at the Audubon Country Club. As part of that project, there are many construction vehicles traveling along Cardinal and Robin. Please, be mindful of them. They are often carrying oversized loads that extend past the rear of the vehicle. Watch for flags on the ends of those loads. We have had one collision where a motorist did not see the flag and ran her vehicle under the load causing damage. We have been working with the management at the Country Club to make sure we are aware of events that may cause issues with parking. Prior to these events, you will see

temporary "no parking" signs posted in the area to alleviate problems.

In addition to the construction projects inside Audubon Park, there will likely cause some road closures on or around Phillips Lane. We will do our best to get the word out on those closures.

We were proud at how successful the recent Auktoberfest event was and getting to see so many of you and your families. Hopefully you saw several of our officers out and about during the event to make sure any issues were handled quickly.

Halloween is also right around the corner. Decisions and announcements regarding the annual Trick or Treat will be made closer to the end of October, but we are anxious to start seeing those wonderful decorations.

Crime continues to rise in the Louisville area and we are fighting hard to keep those crimes out of Audubon Park. Please, remember to check your car doors at night to make sure they are locked. Remove valuable items (purses, wallets, electronics, medications, etc.) from your vehicle or make sure they are out of sight. We are starting to see reports of package thefts in our area. Use package tracking apps and security cameras to watch for your packages and try to arrange for someone to put your package in a safe area as soon as possible. Unfortunately, these opportunistic thieves will become more active as the Holidays approach and online shopping increases.

We have officers on duty 24 hours a day. If you need immediate assistance or see suspicious activity that you would like to report you can reach us any time day or night by calling the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office dispatch center at (502)574-5471 or by utilizing the 911 system. An on duty officer will be notified and will be on the way to assist you. Calling in using the dispatch center prevents unnecessary delays in notifying an officer and gives us the best opportunity to serve you quickly and increases the chances of us being able to apprehend those who commit thefts or other crimes. Please,

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remember to dial 911 or call (502)574-5471 so we can do our best job of protecting and serving the community that we love.

Happy fall everyone! Bring on the pumpkin spice and we will be seeing you around the Park.

## **AUDUBON PARK GARDEN CLUB NEWS**

*Joanne Bader*

### **Planning for A New Season Of Garden Club Programs – Still Some Hiccups**

The Audubon Park Garden Club was excited to offer a new year of programming after a hiatus imposed by COVID 19, but alas, we're off to a bumpy start due to the recent surge in the virus here in Louisville. A full slate of programming through June 2022 has been proposed and scheduled, but out of an abundance of caution, programs in September and October have been cancelled due to COVID. September's program focused on "House Plants and Fall Planters" with guest speaker Jeff Wallitsch of Petals. Rev. Lee Payne, Jr., a man who wears many hats such as Chaplain, Head of Security and Wildlife Specialist at Cave Hill Cemetery was to be the guest speaker at the Fall Dinner; his program "Creatures in the Mist" was to showcase his talents as a photographer as he captures many of the animal and bird residents at Cave Hill – and his work is well known to those on the Nextdoor Neighborhood App, especially his photography of the many fox families who call the cemetery their home. We hope we will be able to reschedule these two programs at some point in the future and we will re-evaluate scheduling of later programs as well. Please check the City's website at [www.audubonparkky.org](http://www.audubonparkky.org) for updated information on programs.

### **Brightside Cleanup to be Held October 16<sup>th</sup>**

The Garden Club sponsors two annual clean-ups under the auspices of Brightside; Garden Club member, Marie Eff, coordinates these events held in April and October. The fall clean-up is scheduled on **Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m.** with volunteers gathering at the Preston Street entrance to Audubon Park. We hope that many residents will show up to

clean up and beautify the City's western entrance on Preston Highway at Audubon Parkway, keeping our signature entrance to Audubon Park looking its best – especially now that the entrance columns are lighted and new landscaping is in place. Gloves and t-shirts will be handed out to volunteers *and students needing service hours are welcome!* Also volunteers are encouraged to bring rakes, brooms and other trimming garden tools to help in the clean-up.

### **Be Good Stewards to our Birds!**

Fortunately, the ban on bird feeders issued this past spring in response to the mysterious illness/deaths in local birds has been rescinded. While the cause of the illnesses in birds is still unsolved, wildlife experts have now given the go-ahead to refill birdfeeders and birdbaths. However, they remind everyone to thoroughly clean and sanitize your feeders when empty to prevent a reoccurrence of the illness that struck our feathered friends. Please be especially conscious to provide fresh water during the fall and winter when it may not be readily available from other sources.

### **Plant those Perennials!**

Fall is a great time to plant some perennials in the garden as garden shops offer discounted plants. We encourage you to plant for both butterflies and other pollinators – butterfly weed, milkweeds, cone flowers, etc. A larger list of great options can be found in the June 2021 newsletter.

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!

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- 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>
  - There is a link at our website under "Links" where you can "Report A Problem" to MSD regarding stormwater waste issues.
  - A resident Code Enforcement Complaint Form is located at the website so concerned residents can electronically report garbage, debris, graffiti, abandoned vehicles and property, parking, and overgrowth violations. Our Part-Time Code Enforcement Officer is Otto Mock and he can be reached at Audubonparkcodeofficer@gmail.com or 502-554-6105.
  - Please discourage children and others from climbing trees in the various City parks, out of concern for both safety and potential damage.
  - Information regarding ash trees and the emerald ash borer is available at City Hall, and on the Forest Board's archive Web site, *TreeCommittee-APKY.org*.
  - Waste of all types – garbage, recycling and yard waste – is collected on Tuesdays (with occasional exceptions for holidays which is usually a day or two later). Garbage is picked up from behind your house, while yard waste and recycling items are to be placed at the curb. **Trash can only be set out the day prior to pickup and must be returned by the evening following.** Remember, the green cans should not be visible from the street.
  - Please wear reflective clothing or other reflective gear – or, better still, carry powered lights – if you are out running, biking or walking in reduced light. It can be very difficult to see you if you are wearing
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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 2020-2021 is \$40,500. Only one exemption (Homestead or Disability) is allowed per household. Once approved for the Homestead Exemption, you are not required to reapply annually. You are eligible for the Homestead Exemption on residential or commercial property as long as you own and occupy the property as your primary residence and meet all other qualifying criteria.
- Audubon Park has a Little Free Library located at the intersection of Wren and Audubon Parkway. The Little Free Library is a book/magazine/DVD/CD exchange for adults and children where you are free to drop off or take materials located in the outdoor book holder. The library steward is Amanda Thompson. If you have questions, concern, or comments, please feel free to call, text or email her at 502-931-0790 or amt924@hotmail.com.

### COMMUNICATIONS

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

- This quarterly **newsletter** with updates, reports and discussions of City programs, events, services

and facilities. The newsletter is published on the Web site, social media, 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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