




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



City Council:

Jennifer Kleier  
Brittney Gorter  
Andrew Klump

Madeline Bozeman  
Austin Schwenker  
Stephanie George

Issue 85

March 2019

## FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR WILLIAMS

*Tony Williams*

The first few months as Mayor have been busy! I want to start by thanking all the previous and current civic volunteers, (too numerous to name but sincerely appreciated) along with current part-time and full-time employees. Without the assistance of both civic volunteers and employees, our city would not be the best Audubon Park it can be. Congrats to council member Andrew Klump and Brittney Gorter on winning another term on city council. Also, congratulations to new council members: Jennifer Kleier, Madeline Mittel Bozeman, Austin Schwenker, and Stephanie George. I look forward to continue working with you all and thank you for your service!

Along with the city council by my side, I've hit the ground running. Continued recodification efforts, franchise agreements, budget planning, bond resolutions, and insurance business taxes are just a few issues being addressed. In addition, our website has been updated, eighteen new board members have been appointed, and a part-time code officer has been hired, which is helping us revamp our city. You may begin to notice small physical improvements such as beautification and restoration efforts at our entrances along with several parks that have updated water and electrical capabilities.

I'm honored to work side by side with Police Chief, Mike Minniear and the police department that continues to make our neighborhood safe along with City Clerk, Janette Mercer who keeps this city functioning on a daily basis.

Traditionally, the Festival of the Dogwood has been the third week of April. But because of Thunder over Louisville and Easter Season, our signature Festival of the Dogwood will be held on **Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup> from 3pm to 10pm at Henderson (Wren) Park.** Plan now for lighting your trees, shrubs, and flowers whenever they bloom, especially 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 a sure way we can show off our beautiful neighborhood!

If you haven't been to our website in a while, please visit [www.audubonparkky.org](http://www.audubonparkky.org) and take a quick look at all of the updates. You will find a wealth of information including, but not limited to, council meeting minutes, ordinances, and complaint forms. Special thanks to Laura Kelty for volunteering her time to update our city website.

*"Provided as a service to our neighbors"*

Finally, I would like to hear suggestions from our residents. The biggest challenge about being a council member or mayor is that we seldom get to hear directly from you. I am urging you to fill out the enclosed survey (pink sheet) either electronically online at the link provided or the physical sheet can be turned into City Hall by April 15<sup>th</sup>. There will be an April 22nd town hall meeting to present the survey results and also discuss the upcoming budget. Thank you for electing me as your new Mayor. I look forward to serving you over the next four years!

### FOREST BOARD NEWS

*Leah Netherland- Chairperson*

Priorities of the Forest Board include increasing the tree canopy and reducing tree canopy loss. Trees provide many benefits not least of which is reducing the neighborhood temperature. When sunlight warms the ground and pavement, heat is absorbed and released at night. This means our summer nighttime temperatures are higher which means we start the day with increased temperatures. This is known as the urban heat island effect. Temperatures in Louisville are always higher than the surrounding rural area. This can impact air quality and increase the impact of droughts.

In order to decrease the urban heat island impact right here in Audubon Park we need to strive to provide shade on all of our streets. Every paved area of any size that receives sun will increase the urban heat cycle.

The Audubon Park Forest Board has been planting trees in the right of way areas since 2007, both to help ease resident responsibilities, and to promote a healthy and diverse urban forest. Over the years we have offered various programs, providing free or reduced prices, and have successfully planted over 160 trees. If the street in front of your home is not shaded, please contact Leah Netherland @ 638-8919 to see if a canopy tree is appropriate for your site or to get involved in volunteering with our tree care programs.

### AUDUBON PARK POLICE

*Chief Mike Minniear*

Greetings to everyone from the Audubon Park Police Department! I have had the pleasure of serving the Audubon Park residents as a Major and Chief of Police since August 2013. I'm a proud veteran of the United States Navy and have also retired from the Louisville Metro Police. This has been my favorite job in Law Enforcement in many ways, and also my toughest. The challenge of



keeping a community safe in an urban environment with the surroundings of Audubon Park is not easy. I'm constantly analyzing the crime data around us and adjusting the operations of the police force to keep you safe. My hope is residents realize the benefit of having a police force is worth the expense. Crime rates in Audubon Park remain extremely low. Here's a comparison of reported crimes so far this year in Audubon Park within 1 1/2 mile radius of our city hall:

<u>Year To Date</u>	<u>Metro</u>	<u>Audubon Park</u>
Assaults	64	0
Thefts	202	2
Burglaries	34	0
Fraud	106	2
Robberies	10	0

We are one of the safest cities in Kentucky! Your Audubon Park police officers strive to provide excellence in law enforcement services to you while working within strict budget parameters to keep the taxpayer cost at a minimum. Our greatest deterrence of crime are the residents calling the police anytime you see anything suspicious. Please send any pictures or video of suspicious activity to the police force. We have identified many suspects with the "Ring Doorbell" cameras.

*"Provided as a service to our neighbors"*

Please follow these tips to help prevent crime:

- *Lock all doors to your house, garage, and vehicles*
- *Keep fence gates on your property closed*
- *Soliciting is not allowed, do not give money to door knockers*  
*(Keep in mind religious groups and politicians can go door to door)*
- *Use lighting at night around your house*
- *Do not leave anything of value in plain view in your vehicle*
- *Close and lock garage doors*
- *Register for house watch when travelling (via [audubonparkky.org](http://audubonparkky.org), or just visit the station). Another reason for our low crime rate: 2,641 house watches last year*
- *Keep your yard viewable and uncluttered*
- *Bring mail and other deliveries inside promptly*

Have you heard about a new *free* device that will prevent **90 %** of thefts from vehicles??? Use the lock button on your car every time you exit your vehicle!

When you get a chance, please check out the updated website [www.audubonparkky.org](http://www.audubonparkky.org) under the "Government" tab and then click "Audubon Park Police." We have added pictures and contact information for all of our officers.

Below is a quick recap of the total activity in Audubon Park from 2018:

<b>Audubon Park 2018 Recap</b>	
Burglar Alarms	55
House Watches	2,641
Suspects Positively ID'd	88
Misc. Runs	188
Reported Crimes	22 (16 solved)

Finally, please call **502-574-5471** if you need the Audubon Park Police. The phone will be answered by the consolidated dispatchers at the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. Tell them you live in Audubon Park, the problem you are having, and your address. We'll be there pronto: "we've got your back!"

## **AUDUBON PARK POLICE- New Employee**

*Bob O'Neil*



Officer Bob O'Neil was sworn in as our newest officer with the Audubon Park Police Department on January 21, 2019. He has worked as a Correctional Officer with the Jefferson County Corrections Department; Police Officer with the Bowling Green Police Department and Louisville Metro Police Department; Investigator for the Kentucky Office of the Attorney General's Office prior to coming to Audubon Park. Bob is a veteran with the National Guard 223<sup>rd</sup> Military Police. Bob is a graduate of the Kentucky Military Academy and has an associate in Applied Science from Jefferson Community College. He has been married for 28 years and has two daughters. We are very happy to add Officer Bob O'Neil to the Audubon Park Police Family.

## **AUDUBON PARK GARDEN CLUB NEWS**

*Joanne Bader*

### *Operation Brightside Cleanup on April 13<sup>th</sup>*

Each spring we are reminded of Nature's renewal as trees begin to bud and leaves unfurl, flowers wake up from their winter's rest, and Audubon Park's full beauty springs forth! It is a time when residents begin to exercise outside more and visitors come to drive through our streets and view the beauty of our dogwoods and other flowering trees and bushes. To maximize this beauty, residents are encouraged to help in the twice yearly Brightside Cleanup, traditionally held at one of the City's main entrances on Preston Highway. This year's Brightside Cleanup (in cooperation with the Audubon Park Garden Club) will be held on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9 am. Please consider sharing your morning by helping to remove garbage, weeds etc. around the Preston entrance with your fellow neighbors. This is an excellent opportunity for teens to get service hours or for parents to work alongside their kids to beautify Audubon Park. Work gloves, garbage bags and t-shirts will be provided by Brightside; please feel free to bring

*"Provided as a service to our neighbors"*

---

---

brooms, rakes, weeders or other tools to help in the cleanup. If you have any questions, please contact Marie Eff at 635-7928. Hope to see you there!!

*Festival of the Dogwood April 27<sup>th</sup> 3pm to 10pm*

Last year, the City sponsored the Light Up Audubon festival which was a great success. The Garden Club has decided that they will support any city efforts for this springtime celebration by encouraging its members and other residents to spruce up their yards and to light up their trees, homes and any flowering plants or shrubs when they begin to bloom and throughout the dogwood blooming season. This is a wonderful time of year to share Audubon Park's beauty with visitors from all over Louisville.

There will not be a Garden Club sponsored Sunday concert this year due to declining interest and increasing demands on people's time. However, we would like to publicly thank Louis and Carol Korb for sponsoring the concert for many years!

*Upcoming Garden Club Programs*

The Audubon Park Garden Club holds a series of programs from September to May. They are open to all residents and their guests and are held at Audubon Park City Hall, 3340 Robin Road, beginning at 1 pm (unless otherwise noted). Upcoming programs include:

**Monday, April 8, 2019:** "*Sharing the Beauty and Bounty of a Local Garden!*" with guest speaker (and Audubon Park Garden Club Member) Jane Jonczy. Those interested should meet at City Hall at 1 p.m. to carpool to the site.

**Tuesday, May 14, 2019:** "*Yew Dell Gardens*" This meeting is the annual spring luncheon and installation of Officers which is held at Audubon Country Club, 3265 Robin Rd. 11:45 a.m. Following the luncheon, representatives from Yew Dell Gardens will share a program on their extensive garden. Reservations are required and there is a fee for the luncheon. Please contact Grace Worful at 375-9041 for reservations or additional information.

Membership is no longer restricted to only Audubon Park residents ....if you know of anyone interested in joining the Garden Club, please have them contact

Membership Chair, Janet Shumate, at 636-0111 or Club President, Jane Jonczy, at 239-4468 for more information. Membership in the Garden Club is \$30 per year. A full listing of Garden Club Programs for the upcoming year can also be found on the city's webpage: [www.audubonparkky.org](http://www.audubonparkky.org) in the Garden Club heading under the Community tab.

*Garden Club Hits Its 90<sup>th</sup> "Birthday" This Year*

The Audubon Park Garden Club was organized in 1929, although we are unsure the exact date of its inception. That time period reflects an enormous amount of time and effort on behalf of its members to promote and maintain the trees and flower beds to contribute to the beauty of Audubon Park. The Garden Club plans to commemorate this 90<sup>th</sup> year achievement at the May luncheon as well as at the October 2019 Fall Dinner when Tom Owen will do a presentation on Audubon Park as it was in 1929.

*Memorial Bench Program*

For many years, Audubon Park has had a Memorial Bench program, created by the City Council and administered by the Audubon Park Garden Club. Since its inception in 2006, 15 benches have been placed in the five city parks by families wishing to honor the memory of loved ones. Now that spring is coming around the corner, we hope that you will get out and walk through the city and its parks to enjoy the beauty that is Audubon Park – its birds and its flora. Please stop to sit on one of these benches to relax and enjoy the sights and sounds of nature around you.

There are still some spaces available in our parks for additional memorial or honorary benches. If you would like more information about the process of purchasing one, please contact Janet Shumate at 636-0111.

**FRIENDLY REMINDERS**

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

- 
- Speed limits and other traffic control measures are strictly enforced, for your safety and security. The City speed limit is 25 mph.
  - There is no parking permitted on the street between 2 AM and 6 AM. There is also no parking permitted on the grass. Please inform visitors of this important information.
  - Pets must be leashed or otherwise under their owner's absolute physical control when outside. The return of spring birds is a special reminder to keep cats and others from straying. We have just installed 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.
  - Easement tree pruning or removal, 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."
  - There is also 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 has been added to 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.
  - 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). 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 this so accidents don't occur – you may be harder to see than you think!

## **BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT**

*Andrew Klump*

During the most recent election cycle, it became apparent that the residents of Audubon Park are concerned with the success and development of businesses along our western border of Preston Highway. Fortunately, businesses have recently opened, increasing the attractiveness and walkability of our lone commercial district. To spur connection between our community and our businesses, this spotlight article will showcase one of our Audubon Park businesses each quarter. Hopefully upon reviewing their stories, products, and services, you will consider supporting our local Audubon Park businesses, fostering the creation of an encouraging economic environment, heightening our standard of living.




---

*"Provided as a service to our neighbors"*

---

---

### ***Vic's Classic Bikes***

Vic's Classic Bikes (VCB) has been restoring and selling Classic road Bikes from the 70's and 80's in Louisville, Kentucky for 10 years. The first 2 years sales were from a garage in Fern Creek. The first retail store front was opened on Preston Street near UofL. Within a



year, the move was made to Baxter Avenue in the Highlands which would be home for the next 6 years. The real estate values and corresponding rents in the Highlands became unsustainable when the building on Baxter sold and the new

owners delivered the news that rents were to double. Within 2 months the business was relocated to 3139 Preston Highway and soon after the building at was 3141 Preston Highway was purchased as the new home of Vic's Classic Bikes.

VCB specialty has always been the restoration of classic road bikes, but we also carry an entry level line of new bicycles called Pure Cycles. A complete line of bicycles under Pure Cycles include road, commuter, and single speed/fixed gear, cruiser and city bike models all in the \$300.00 to \$600.00 range. We are a full-service repair and service shop and carry a full-line of parts and accessories.

Vic's Classic Bikes is excited about being part of the Audubon Park Community and look forward to working with and bringing rides and special events to the neighborhood.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

The City 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, delivered 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.
- **Social media** pages, used to make announcements, schedule activities and events, exchange ideas, and promote dialogue. Two Facebook pages are in use: *Audubon Park City Hall*, the main civic page and *Audubon Park Police Department*, focusing on law enforcement and public safety. The *Nextdoor* network has also become a popular spot for household and personal postings and feedback.
- 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."
- 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**, listed on the Web calendar.
- Or, just dropping by **City Hall**, for information or an informal chat.

Please take advantage of all these resources for civic awareness and engagement.

State law also requires ordinances and some other official notices to be published, either by newspaper, or first-class direct mail. With current newspaper circulation, and rates, mailings are a much better choice – so you may see things like this delivered from time to time.

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

---

---

*"Provided as a service to our neighbors"*