




# The Official Newsletter of The City of Audubon Park



*Dorn Crawford, Mayor*  
*Janette Mercer, City Clerk*  
City Hall: 3340 Robin Road  
637-5066  
[www.AudubonParkKY.org](http://www.AudubonParkKY.org)  
 Audubon Park Residents



City Council:

*Brittney Gorter*  
*Andrew Klump*  
*Darrell Shelton*

*Camden Shipley*  
*Lisa Weaver*  
*Tony Williams*

Issue 84

December 2018

## MAYOR'S MUSINGS

*Dorn Crawford*

A busy and eventful term of office is about to conclude, and while regretting the personal circumstances that compel me, I look forward to a smooth and amiable transition to new leadership. As a capstone, this report has a lot more ground to cover than usual; but that would make the usual narrative form a real reader's chore. Instead, here's a more concise simple list of the main efforts I've undertaken the last five years to bring the City to its current condition, which I'm proud and happy to pass along to the next administration:

- Reformed our tax and fee structure to reduce and spread its impact over the year
- Worked with PVA to redesign annual tax bills for clarity and readability
- Integrated auditing in the management and analysis process
- Developed an evolving set of fiscal tools to insure optimum transparency, accountability and spending discipline
- Overcame a \$300K deficit to regain City solvency, then began directing available resources to neglected facilities and programs
- Overhauled our sanitation program to reduce fees and restrict funds, maintain essential services at lower cost, and monitor operations to address problems
- Defended the City's character and integrity from administrative and legal challenges
- Made close relationships with state legislators and advocacy groups to follow General Assembly developments, and protect and promote City interests
- Conducted a complete overhaul and update of our City Code of Ordinances, last compiled in 1996
- Established a state-sanctioned overlay district to preserve City ordinances on responsible land use
- Streamlined city staffing and procedures to increase responsiveness and minimize costs
- Recruited new police leadership, and fostered a community policing model
  - Professional, second-career, part-time force
  - Networked for recruiting replacements as needed
  - Close-knit community outreach – bike patrols, house watch, Halloween gigs, media
  - Proactive crime prevention and devotion to civic order
- Established or restored key City offices, including Engineer, Archivist, Bookkeeper, and Attorney
- Established or refilled City boards to oversee key functional areas: ethics, code enforcement, forest management, and parks and recreation programs
- Set up points of contact with utilities and service providers to promote good relations and responsive support
- Pursued long-deferred capital improvements, including

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## HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

*Audubon Park Police Department*

Seasons greetings from your Audubon Park Police Department! We are all enjoying the festive holiday displays that are going up as we patrol through the City. We want everyone to have a wonderful and safe month as we all prepare for celebrations with family and friends. Here are a few safety tips to help keep you and your loved ones in the holiday spirit:

1) NEVER leave valuables visible inside a vehicle and double-check to make sure your doors are locked. That may sound overly simplistic, but every report we have taken for theft from an automobile was from a vehicle that was unlocked or had valuables in plain sight.

2) While shopping, park in well lit areas. Store packages in your trunk or out of sight. Enter your vehicle with caution, especially at night, and have your keys ready in your hand.

3) Use a cab, a ride-sharing service or a designated driver. We want everyone to make it home safely after holiday parties and outings.



4) If you need immediate police assistance, call the Jefferson County Sheriff's Dispatch at 502-574-5471, or dial 911.

Thank you for allowing us to serve our community for another successful year in Audubon Park. We look forward to seeing you all in 2019!!

- City Hall repairs and maintenance
- Restoration of entrance columns
- Playscape park facilities
- Forest management and renewal
- Road repair, repaving and sustainment planning
- Sidewalk assessment
- Launched an extensive program of activities and events to promote community spirit and interaction
  - Dogwood Festival opening ceremony
  - Arbor Day commemoration
  - Easter egg hunt
  - Independence Day parade
  - Block party
  - Fall festival/*Auktoberfest*
  - Outdoor movies
  - Flag ceremonies on patriotic occasions
- Developed a broad range of media channels to boost information flow and feedback
  - Meetings/Town Halls
  - City Hall open door
  - Telephone/email networks
  - Emergency notification systems
  - Retooled Web site
  - Facebook and Nextdoor streams
  - Newsletters
  - Direct mail
- Emphasized innovation and willingness to experiment in seeking new solutions to City problems and goals – from fiscal practices, to traffic management, tax policy, legislation, community programs, communications, and more.

While there's still plenty left to do, as always, it's my best hope that these efforts have left the City in solid shape to continue moving forward – and still have some fun on the side. I've pledged my dedicated successor, Tony Williams, any ongoing advice and assistance I can offer from the sidelines, and wish him and the new Council every success.

Best wishes for the season, and peace and prosperity in the new year! See you around our beloved Park!

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## AUDUBON PARK GARDEN CLUB NEWS

*Joanne Bader*

### *Community Christmas Celebration*

The Garden Club is no longer sponsoring the Christmas Community Celebration event at City Hall. It seems that the holiday season is becoming so much busier for families, who have so many competing events that call upon their time. Recognizing this, and due to dwindling participation at the event, the Garden Club decided to stop sponsoring the annual community gathering which was normally held at City Hall in early December.

However, we hope that everyone continues to decorate doorways and homes to ensure that Audubon Park looks its best for the many visitors who enjoy driving or strolling through our city during the holiday season to see the beautifully decorated homes in our historic neighborhood. And we hope that the city's elves continue to decorate the street lamp posts which add to the festive air in the Park.

### *Thanking the Old, Welcoming the New*

The Audubon Park Garden Club would like to thank the outgoing Mayor, Dorn Crawford, and the members of City Council for their service to Audubon Park. Audubon Park has done much in recent years to improve the quality of life in our City which reinforces the special character of our community.

The Garden Club would also like to welcome incoming Mayor Tony Williams, as well as the new residents who will serve the City as Council members. Special thanks to Brittney Gorter and Andrew Klump for running again and providing continuity as the transition from old to new starts on January 1<sup>st</sup>. We appreciate your service to the residents of Audubon Park and wish you success in the year ahead!

### *Upcoming Garden Club Programs*

The Garden Club will not be hosting a program in January 2019. However, the following programs 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).

*Monday, February 11, 2019: "Easy Floral Designs with Flowers from the Grocery or Your Garden,"* with guest speaker, Jacquelyn McGrail, a Master Gardener, landscape design consultant, and past President of the Rambler Garden Club. This event, our potluck winter luncheon, is held at Audubon Baptist Church, 1046 Hess Lane at 11 a.m. Guests are welcome.

*Monday, March 11, 2019: "Small Container Composting"* with representatives from the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service.

*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, and is held at Audubon Country Club, 3265 Robin Rd, at 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 Audubon Park residents only. 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 Web site: [www.audubonparkky.org](http://www.audubonparkky.org), in the Garden Club heading under the Community tab.

### *Brightside Cleanup*

Six intrepid souls turned out for the fall Brightside Cleanup on Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. Despite a windy day, they managed to fill six bags of garbage/garden

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waste at the front entrance to Audubon Park on Preston Highway. Their efforts were much appreciated!

Brightside sponsors these twice-yearly cleanups; the next will be scheduled around the third Saturday in April 2019. Please think about volunteering at this event, which is part of the Week of Service promoted by the City of Louisville. It's a wonderful way to meet your neighbors and help with beautifying Audubon Park! Keep in mind that any student volunteers needing service hours are welcome to help. This project is coordinated by Garden Club member Marie Eff, and we extend our gratitude for her time and effort!

*Garden Tidbits:*

The Garden Club is selling soil knives (AM Leonard deluxe) for \$25 each, as well as Atlas Palmflex garden gloves for \$6 a pair in sizes S, M, L, and XL. Contact Janet Shumate at 636-0111 if you would like to purchase these items. They make great a great gift for those cleaning up the garden in the fall or as stocking stuffers!

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**FOREST BOARD NEWS**

*Leah Netherland, Chair*

The Forest Board would like to take this opportunity to thank Dorn for his service and to reflect on our accomplishments while he has been Mayor.

We have been able to expand our tree planting efforts and to initiate new tree maintenance programs because of the budget that has been approved each year by this Mayor and the City Councils. During previous administrations our budget was generally limited to grants and generous donations by residents. For the past several years we have requested and been granted a generous yearly budget designated specifically for responsible forest management. This has allowed us to plan ahead and to develop relationships with nurseries and tree professionals.

- We now designate part of our budget each year to have arborists prune in the parks to improve tree health and avoid more catastrophic damage during storms.
- The treatment of some of our Ash trees was already underway when Mayor Crawford took office, but since then funding has been secured for ongoing treatment.
- We have been able to begin the long-anticipated project of providing a water supply for trees in each park.
- We have been able to initiate and expand many cooperative projects between homeowners and the City.
- We have been able to offset homeowner cost for various planting and pruning activities. Many more homeowners have been able to participate in Forest Board projects.

With Dorn as Mayor the Forest Board has become an integral part of the City of Audubon Park. We have truly appreciated your passionate support and encouragement. Thanks, Dorn!

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**HELLO - WHO'S THERE?**

*Chief Mike Minniear*

Audubon Park continues to attract talented people, in both its resident volunteer officials and its employees. The bad news is, this creates turnover, as people of this caliber are actively sought in other challenging assignments. The good news is, we've been very fortunate in finding equally skilled and motivated replacements. Here are the latest additions to our police force you should meet.

The Audubon Park Police Department is very fortunate that these two outstanding men have chosen to join our ranks. There is no doubt they will each provide a high level of professional dedicated service to the City and our residents. When you see them out and about in the City, please take a moment to say hello and welcome them to the Audubon Park family.

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**Kevin Mumphrey**  
Police Officer

Kevin joined LMPD in 1997. Through the years, he served in The Emergency Services Unit, The Special Response Team and The SWAT Team. Even with the extra duties associated with serving in those units, Kevin

found time to go back to school and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Sports Administration from the University of Louisville.

For fun, Kevin enjoys working out and spending time with his kids.



**George Rodman**  
Police Officer

George joined LMPD in 1998 after serving as a corrections officer for two years. He spent time as a District Detective, a Domestic Violence Unit Detective and as a Flex/Narcotics Detective. In addition, George was a Field Training Officer and spent many

years as an instructor in the Louisville Basic Training Academy. George was named Officer of the Year in 2016 and retired from LMPD in October 2017.

George is an avid University of Louisville sports fan and a proud Grandpa. He attends many sporting events with his family and spends a great deal helping out with his grandchildren.

- 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 physical control when outside. When dog walking, *please pick up after them.*
- Building, tree, and property sale permits are issued through City Hall. If you have a project in mind, a tree you would like to trim or remove on the easement, or if you would like to have a yard sale, please call or come by City Hall for more information on obtaining a permit.
- Report any streetlights that are out of order or malfunctioning to City Hall, at 637-5066. This input will be relayed to LG&E for repairs.
- 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. Be sure to report any missed collection to City Hall.

### 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!

#### *Be Safe While Walking, Biking or Running*

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!



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## 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, and email subscriber list, and every other issue is delivered on paper to all residences.
- 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. Three Facebook pages are in use: *Audubon Park Residents*, the main civic page; *Friends of Audubon Park*, with smaller subscription but generally the same content; and *City of Audubon Park Police*, focusing on law enforcement and public safety.
- 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 in your mailbox from time to time.

Beyond those mandates, we're on our own, and just want to find the channels that do the best (and cheapest!) job of getting the word out. What are your thoughts and ideas?



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