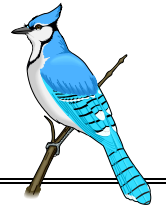





The Official Newsletter of The City of Audubon Park



Dorn Crawford, Mayor
Janette Mercer, City Clerk

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MAYOR'S MUSINGS

Dorn Crawford

A super summer season has arrived at last – despite some extremes in heat, and precipitation! Hope everybody had a great spring, kicked off by another excellent Dogwood Festival, including our signature tree-lighting and opening ceremony and celebration, Arbor Day activities, and concluding band concert wrap-up event. Anchoring it all, of course, was the illumination of trees and homes throughout the City that makes the Festival a landmark for the entire metropolitan area. Shout-outs to all concerned – our tireless Forest Board, Garden Club, supporting City Council, staff and police force – and most of all to you, our illuminated neighbors, especially all those who stayed lit well past the ceremonies, until a late tree bloom could be fully on display!

A few other developments while we were enjoying the festivities:

Taxes. Rates for *ad valorem* taxes have been marginally lowered for the coming year. We're still working to catch up on a few deferred maintenance projects covered in our discussions at the Town Hall and related publications and meetings. But there was another increase in the City's total property value assessment this year, mostly due to increased prices for properties sold during the year, so the City will get some helpful added revenue from new purchasers. That made it seem like a good time to stabilize rates – so, most bills should be a little less than last year. Don't forget the due date for payment

at face value is July 1st (with a few days' grace added for bills affected by late delivery of PVA rolls).

Budget. The fiscal year 2019 budget, which takes effect on July 1st, was adopted on June 18th, following our Town Hall meeting of May 24th, and initial proposal and reading on May 21st. It's basically a stay-the-course plan, with some resources added for reforestation, community activities, supplemental road repair funds, and a contingency set-aside for unforeseen expenses.

Among the happy challenges we're facing in the more favorable fiscal environment we enjoy now are

- (1) Smoothly and properly rolling over unspent funds for use in the new year, that may come from several sources: revenues exceeding expectations; savings on expenses; or projects not completed for one reason or another, but which can be re-authorized with carryover funds after year-end reconciliations. The resulting beginning balances in the budget can be filled in with supplemental appropriations once the final figures are known.
- (2) Accounting, displaying plainly, and controlling the flow of City revenue and expenses. Restoring responsibility and positive control of the City's finances has been a core focus of this administration, especially in peripheral areas that have caused chronic problems, like grant solicitation, contract services, targeted fund-raising, and, most recently, proceeds of

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community activities. There's been animated discussion over best administrative practices, but no escape from the basic mandate of full responsibility and good stewardship by your elected officials. While always seeking to improve procedures, we'll certainly stand by these basic obligations, executive and legislative.

- (3) Tracking long-awaited maintenance and development projects – completed, ongoing, and still queued – updating priorities, proposals, and funding options. Halting steps, in other words, toward strategic planning.

The enacting budget and tax and fee ordinances should be reaching you by mail (as required by law) about the same time as this newsletter. A detailed Mayor's budget proposal to the City Council was published in our media outlets and Web site, and circulated at the May Town Hall meeting noted above.

Waste Management. We're now entering the third year of our current contract, with scarcely any concerns raised over the revised collection schedule, recycling gear, and sharing of small dumpsters at the larger apartments and condos. Individual pickup problems still sometimes occur, of course, and City Hall still works to help resolve those as they're reported. The new contract has saved a lot of money on tax bills, as noted earlier; but monitoring continues to make sure it's still working as intended.

Fiber-Optic Cable Installation. The buzz about Google's possible installation of fiber-optic cable in the Louisville area to provide 1-gigabit/second Internet service faded for a while, but is recently back in the news. Portland, and areas of the Highlands, have had service installed under a modified plan using shallow in-street cable routing that's had some technical problems; no word yet when Audubon Park's turn might come. AT&T's lawsuit challenging Metro's ordinance on moving existing equipment on

utility poles to accommodate new providers is still pending, and could also affect the viability of this scheme, as well as the schedule.

AT&T, as you may recall, installed fiber trunk lines in the western half of Audubon Park last year, for the same purpose, and has begun offering to install connections to individual houses, but hasn't disclosed its schedule for wiring the rest of the City.

In a related development, the Kentucky Supreme Court last year sustained a challenge to state government's central control and distribution of telecommunications franchise fees, in *Kentucky CATV Association Inc. v. City of Florence et al.* This decision returns fee determination and collection to the cities, as part of their franchising authority. This may ultimately produce more revenue for the City – but in the short term may add another layer of complication to implementing these new services. Implementing instructions from Frankfort are still awaited.

It's disappointing, if not surprising, that a service so desirable should encounter so many complications and uncertainties. You can be sure we'll be pressing to see it still delivered, uniformly or otherwise, with common sense and due regard to the City's interests.

Utilities. The broader theme from the above is a reminder of the City's commitment to improve information flow and accountability for all service providers. Current ordinances already require permits for any utility-related tree trimming, trenching or equipment installation. This is for the protection of all residents, to verify providers and subcontractors are certified, fully insured, and perform responsibly. It's also a way to let everybody know when and where work like this is expected, so they can plan for it and be informed about it.

As the City has reached out to the various providers, they've generally been receptive and cooperative, once informed. Our basic premise is that citizens of

Audubon Park shouldn't have their lives or property disrupted without due notice, and good cause. You should always insist that anyone you didn't hire who wants to enter your property show a proper permit – or just call City Hall and ask if one's been issued. Our police are happy to assist you in resolving any situation that may result. This also helps with outreach, so all providers can be better informed of the reasonable protective and information functions the City performs by law.

Traffic Enforcement. You've probably recall the temporary speed bumps applied last year on Audubon Parkway at the five-way stop at Chickadee and Crossbill. This was a trial discussed, and informally surveyed, to see if they'd improve compliance with the stops signs there, which had become a matter of mounting concern. Much useful feedback was generated across the board, both on this novel application, and more traditional ones that usually come to mind. The majority was favorable – but enough concerns were expressed to justify trying something less intrusive. Look for another temporary installation of shallower 'humps' at the same location, to see if they can be equally effective.

Other alternatives are being explored in this and other locations of concern, including parked police cars; illuminated speed displays; cautionary signage; and 'calming' road designs.

Activities. Summer is the time to get outside, of course, and enjoy good company, good fellowship, and a good time! We've already enjoyed a fine outdoor movie night put on by the City Parks and Rec Board. Their upcoming program includes our annual Independence Day parade, to be held this year on Saturday, June 30; and the not-to-be-missed Block Party on Dove Road, Saturday, July 21. Mark your calendar, and consult posted flyers and notices for details! *Please pitch in to help with these events* when the call comes – that's what makes it happen!

And don't forget, our parks are public spaces, where you can start your own traditions, as a recent small school's-out picnic in Wren Park, and a wedding in Oriole Park, demonstrated. Be sure to turn out, and have a super summer, everybody!

FOREST BOARD NEWS

Leah Netherland

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.

We are fortunate to have neighbors adjoining the City's rights of way to water our youngest trees. Homeowners with new street trees are instructed to fill their ooze tubes or water their trees weekly for the first 3 years.

We are continuing to add names to our list of candidates for the Ash Removal Program and Public Way Tree Program to apply supporting funds available in our fiscal 2019 budget.

Other Forest Board activities have included planting, pruning and spreading mulch in City parks; educating homeowners on the selection and care of new trees; studying enhancements of our forest sustainment program laid out in the City Code; and overseeing management of forest resources, especially in our parks and public ways.

We are undertaking a long-term project to install a water supply in each of the City's parks, as funds permit, to facilitate care of trees and other plantings. A secured spigot was installed in Wren Park this year, and a second park installation is budgeted for the coming year.

Please contact Leah Netherland @ 638-8919 for more information on our tree planting programs or to get involved in volunteering with our tree care programs.

SUMMER PUBLIC SAFETY TIPS

Chief Mike Minniear

It feels great to be able to be outdoors these days – but crooks feel the same way! Please be vigilant, and keep these tips in mind:

- 1) *Lock your front door* when you are working or relaxing in the back yard and conversely when relaxing on the front porch.
- 2) *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.
- 3) *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 or firemen can see in case of an emergency.
- 4) *Use locks for yard gates* which will limit easy access to your property and contents such as lawn furniture and barbecue grills.
- 5) *WATCH FOR CHILDREN PLAYING!* The great weather means more kids will be outside!
- 6) *If you do outdoor activity, do so in well-traveled areas* where you can get help if needed. If you walk or run, do it with a partner(s) when possible, especially when dark, and have a plan in case an emergency arises or you encounter a situation like a dog running at large (Expect the unexpected).
- 7) *Avoid door to door solicitors*, especially concrete or roof repairmen. And never pay anyone for work before repairs are made. Your city ordinances prohibit soliciting. If anyone (other than a protected religious group) is soliciting, contact your on-duty police officer by calling 574-5471.
- 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 don't 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.
- 11) *Do not leave your valuables in your car in plain sight* as people pass by this invites crime, and always lock your car doors even when driving.
- 12) *Never leave children or pets inside a car.* An 80-degree day can quickly produce temperatures of 120 degrees or more inside a vehicle, even when parked in the shade or with windows partially open.
- 13) *While on vacation, make sure that you stop mail delivery*, and ask a neighbor to remove any flyers, newspapers, and other items that might accumulate while you are away. Use timers to turn lights on and off, and set radios to turn on at various times. Leave a contact number with a neighbor so that you can be reached in case of an emergency.
- 14) *When the weather gets hot, check on older and isolated neighbors.*
- 15) *Always travel on well lit, well populated streets.* Always travel in groups. Remain alert to your surroundings. Never wear headphones while walking or jogging.

Enjoy the beautiful weather, and be safe!

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AUDUBON PARK GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Joanne Bader

April Brightside Cleanup Nearly a Washout

The Garden Club, under the direction of Marie Eff, participated in the semi-annual Brightside Cleanup on Saturday, April 14th. Five intrepid volunteers showed up to clean and beautify the City's western entrance at Preston Highway and Audubon Parkway, despite thunderstorm warnings. The group was able to collect three bags of trash before the sky opened up and poured. One volunteer, Margaret Tanguay, was able to collect an additional bag of trash later in the week. As usual, the most common source of trash - cigarette butts - is an ongoing and situational hazard with the bus stop at the corner. The fall cleanup is typically scheduled for the second weekend in October, and we can only hope for better weather and more volunteers! But a huge thank you to those who showed up in April!

Festival of the Dogwood – the Garden Club Spring Concert

This year the dogwoods in Audubon Park decided to bloom on their own timetable, rather than the usual peak bloom around the third week of April. Despite global warming elsewhere, Louisville suffered from extended cold in April, which pushed peak bloom well past the City-sponsored Dogwood Festival opening celebration held April 13th in Wren Park. This event marked the 47th year that a celebration of our dogwood trees has been held in Audubon Park.

The Garden Club again sponsored its annual Sunday concert on April 15th, marking the official end of the Dogwood Festival. Sponsored by Louis and Carol Korb, the *River Cities Concert Band* provided a free concert of patriotic, light classical and show tunes at Audubon Baptist Church on Hess Lane. Approximately 100 members of the church and residents of Audubon Park attended. The event was also graced by Mayor Dorn Crawford who read the

annual Arbor Day Proclamation (a requirement for being part of Tree City USA); State Representative Jim Wayne, who presented a new state flag to the City; and Metro Council member Pat Mulvihill. Light refreshments were served. The Garden Club would like to extend its appreciation to the Korbs for their generous sponsorship of this event!

Upcoming Garden Club Programs

The Garden Club hosts a monthly program series from September to May, and goes on hiatus during the summer months. These monthly 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). 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 \$25 per year.

A full listing of Garden Club programs for the upcoming year will be published in the September newsletter, and can also be found on the city's Web site, www.AudubonParkKY.org, in the Garden Club heading under the Community tab.

The Club's first meeting, which may occur before the fall newsletter is published, will be on *Monday, September 10th* at 12:30 at City Hall. The program includes a carpool to Cave Hill Cemetery for a guided tour of its wide variety of trees and flowers. The tour is \$10 per person, and visitors are welcome.

Gardening Tidbits

The Garden Club is selling *soil knives* (AM Leonard deluxe) for \$25 each, as well as *Atlas Palmflex Garden Gloves* for \$6/pair. The gloves come in sizes S, M, L and XL. Contact Janet Shumate at 636-0111 if you would like to purchase any of these items. They make great gifts for gardeners!

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ELECTION SEASON ON THE HORIZON

Audubon Park continues to attract talented people, in both its resident volunteer officials and its employees. We've been very fortunate in the willingness of skilled and motivated citizens to step up for the City.

It's time to start thinking about this fall's election cycle, which will include balloting for the offices of Mayor and all six Council seats. Please consider taking a hand in helping manage Audubon Park's affairs, and guide its future.

Candidates must file by *Tuesday, August 14* to appear on the ballot. It's an easy process involving just a couple of forms, supporting signatures of at least two neighbors, and a \$50 filing fee. Filing packets are available at City Hall. For more details, visit the County Clerk's Election Center at the Edison Center, 7th and Ormsby Streets, or browse the Web site, jeffersoncountyclerk.org, under "Voter Info."

Watch for additional media notices and reminders as the deadline approaches. Be a voter, but more than that – be a player!

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 insure visitors are made aware 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. And 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.

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!

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 *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 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?

**HAVE A SUPER
SUMMER,
EVERYBODY!**