




The Official Newsletter of The City of Audubon Park



Dorn Crawford, Mayor
Janette Mercer, City Clerk

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Issue 81

March 2018

MAYOR'S MUSINGS

Dorn Crawford

Spring has sprung, it seems – though in such fits and starts, and with so many early flowers and trees already out, it's hard to know when the dogwood blossoms may appear for their 'big show!' Because of this year's early Easter season, our signature Festival of the Dogwood can be held in its traditional long-weekend format without conflicting with major Derby-related events. Plan now for a great third weekend in April! The Garden Club's usual 'marching orders' still apply: light your trees and shrubs *whenever they bloom*, as well as during the Festival itself.

From the agenda, this year's is shaping up as the Best Festival Ever, detailed in the flyers circulating with this newsletter, the Garden Club column below, and our other usual outlets. Be sure to be on hand for:

- *Easter egg hunt*, Saturday, March 31, 10 AM. Reprising last year's popular outing, but preceding the Festival to coincide with Easter Eve, this gathering for the kids features lots of mock eggs holding small toys or candies spread around Robin Park to find; an enclosed area for supervised hunting by the smallest; and coffee and donuts for the rest of us.
- *Festival kickoff celebration* on Friday, April 13, 6 PM, featuring great music, great food, great fellowship, and just a lot of fun, culminating in the illumination of dogwood trees at dusk.
- *Band concert*, Sunday, April 15, 3 PM, Audubon Baptist Church. The Festival concluding event, featuring commemorative remarks by local

leaders, complimentary Garden Club goodies, and more great music.

· *Arbor Day Proclamation*, to be read at both the opening and closing ceremonies, celebrating the urban forest that is Audubon Park's most precious resource.

And in the same spirit, it seems appropriate to concentrate on that topic in this issue, as we did this time last year, sparing the usual survey of other areas of City activity for the moment.

To be sure, other pressing topics are still in play, including the annual tax-and-budget cycle, waste management program, community events, administrative and infrastructure projects, legal and regulatory work, and the beginnings of strategic planning. Please review coverage of these topics in previous columns, ask questions, provide feedback, and look for their return in the future.

But for now, let's talk about the forest.

As we continue to struggle with modernizing and streamlining our Code of Ordinances, provisions for the forest have to be a central topic. After detailed community discussion and debate, we adopted a novel overlay ordinance a couple of years ago, with the limited but crucial objective of affirming the City's key role of maintaining civic standards through its Code. With this commitment, we can ask ourselves what protection and oversight the forest should have in Audubon Park.

Our present Forest Code is a conglomeration of ordinances that cover planting, pruning, damage or removal of trees in the parks and public ways, and

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abatement of tree hazards and nuisances everywhere else. As we review and update these provisions, the key questions come up on at least two levels:

- ★ What's the core character of our forest resources: are they *decorative choices* on individual private properties – or are they *community assets* critical for their oxygen output, temperature and drainage impact, noise and pollution reduction, and wildlife habitat?
- ★ How much forest management and regulation are in order throughout, to take advantage of available knowledge and expertise, while still respecting individual preferences?

We can only treat these questions seriously if we have a clear sense of what the forest means to us. We accept regulation of private building modifications, fences, swimming pools, antennas, floodlights, and curbs. Are the trees that compose our forest less a public interest than these?

Part of the reason for these regulations is to defend community standards, and provide a way to resolve concerns, by applying all the knowledge and judgment the City can acquire in the common interest. Should we treat the engineering of the forest any less seriously than that of other property development and management?

Audubon Park has a strong libertarian tradition that deserves recognition and respect. It also has a strong sense of community and common responsibility that can sometimes compete, even conflict. *These currents are not easy to resolve.* But in the case of the forest, as we look around at the barrenness of neighbors like the airport and the Fairgrounds, and the decline of the canopy in the greater metropolitan area, we're compelled to try and come to terms. Preserving and renewing what we have won't happen by itself.

As if to underscore the urgency of this topic, Metro Louisville has recently adopted a revised and updated tree ordinance of its own, following extensive discussion and debate. While it doesn't apply directly

to separate jurisdictions like ours, it has the striking effect of establishing a program in some respects more robust than our own. That seems like an odd position for Audubon Park to find itself in. As we review our own Forest Code, we should consider where we can strengthen its provisions to sustain our traditional leading role.

Please use the occasion of this season to think about the forest. Enjoy the events to come, and the community spirit they embody – then consider what commitment we can make to reinforce and promote it. Then, let us hear your conclusions and ideas. We're counting on you!

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. Over the years we have offered various programs, providing free or reduced prices, and have successfully planted over 160 trees.

Here are some of the comments Audubon Park participants have made about these programs:

Marilyn: "I am happy with the Ash Tree Removal Program. My unhealthy Ash Tree was removed by a tree company recommended by the Forest Board for their competitive pricing. I received my free Tulip Poplar Tree and my \$250.00 rebate and look forward to watching my new tree grow."

Linda: "The tree program was very easy and helpful. We appreciated the way you helped us explore various tree possibilities by giving us a tour of the trees in Audubon Park so we could see how our new tree would look when it matured."

Marie: "The selection of native trees is great. Many of these are not offered by local nurseries."

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.

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SPRING PUBLIC SAFETY TIPS

Chief Mike Minniear

Approaching my sixth month as your Chief of Police, it's a real pleasure to report that crime rates in Audubon Park remain extremely low. Here's a comparison of reported crimes so far this year in Audubon Park with the rest of the 40213 zip code:

	Metro 40213	Audubon Park
Assaults	40	0
Thefts	170	3
Burglaries	15	0
Fraud	46	1
Robberies	8	0

There's still every reason to remain vigilant. There've been reports of 'suspicious persons' in our neighborhood, some captured in photos from private or commercial camera systems. Between January 1st and March 20th our police have stopped and identified 19 persons appearing to be in Audubon Park with the likely intent to commit crimes. It's critically important to report such incidents when they happen, as our number one goal is *crime prevention*.

The miniscule amount of crime committed in Audubon Park isn't because of luck, of course. It's because your taxes pay for residents to have 24/7 police presence. Your Audubon Park police officers strive to provide excellent law enforcement services to you. The officers work hard to fight crime around where you live. Please thank them when you see them out and about.

LMPD's Sixth Division patrols the area around us. We have a very good working relationship with them, strengthened by our service arrangements with other nearby entities like Parkway Village and Audubon Hospital, relieving some of the routine burden on the Sixth, and making them more available to reinforce us when we need them.

Crime prevention can't succeed without your participation! Follow these tips to help prevent crime:

- *Lock your front door*
- *Keep fence gates on your property closed*

- *Use lighting at night around your house*
- *Do not leave anything of value in plain view in your vehicle*
- *Never allow people into your house to use your phone*
- *Close and lock garage doors*
- *Register for house watch when travelling (via audubonparkky.org, or just visit the station)*
- *Keep your yard viewable and uncluttered*
- *Bring mail and other deliveries inside promptly*

These are just common-sense guidelines, but need to be kept in mind! No doubt you can think of others. See if you and your family can come up with ten more good tips to prevent crime. Send them to me at mminniear@audubonparkky.org, and we'll share them on our media outlets. Please consider subscribing to these useful outlets, listed in the "Communications" column later in this newsletter, if you're not already on; they're great sources of local information and feedback.

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!"

WE NEED YOUR OLD PHOTOS!

Contribution by Councilor Darrell Shelton

Have you noticed that many Louisville neighborhoods have books about their history and unique features? And, have you wondered why Audubon Park has no such book?

We, a small group of volunteers, are ready to remedy this situation, but we need your help.

We are currently in the process of collecting old photos and documents of any kind related to Audubon Park and its history. If enough information can be accumulated, the goal is to turn this

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information into an affordable book (\$20 to \$25) to help preserve the history of our City. If you have any pictures, documents, articles, etc., or want to help with this project in any way, please let us know by sending an email to AudubonParkBook@gmail.com or by phoning 637-5538. (Any materials will be scanned and safely returned.)

Any help you can provide will be greatly appreciated!

Thank you,
Audubon Park Book Committee

AUDUBON PARK GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Joanne Bader

Brightside Cleanup to be Held April 14th

Audubon Park's Garden Club coordinates the semi-annual Brightside Cleanup each April and October, focusing its efforts on the Preston Street corridor contiguous to the park's Preston entrance. April's cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, April 14th, beginning at 9 am. Marie Eff, a garden club member, is acting as the event's coordinator and will have garden gloves, trash bags, and t-shirts available for all volunteers. It would be helpful if participants could bring rakes, brooms or other tools to help clean up trash, weeds and other debris. Let Marie know if you have teens needing community service hours! She can be reached at 635-7928 if you have any questions. Bring your kids and/or friends to help make our City's entrance more inviting before the Spring dogwood season.

Festival of the Dogwood

Plans for our traditional signature event, the Dogwood Festival, are proceeding apace. As in the last few years, the City will conduct the opening ceremony and celebration, scheduled for Friday evening, April 13th, beginning at 6 pm; see the flyer accompanying this newsletter for more details. The Garden Club is sponsoring the annual concluding band concert at Audubon Baptist Church, 1046 Hess Lane, on Sunday afternoon, April 15th, beginning at 3 pm. This *free* concert, by the *River Cities Concert Band*, features patriotic as well as light classical music

and show tunes, and is underwritten by residents Louis and Carol Korb and the Audubon Park Garden Club. Light refreshments will be served.

Due to the vagaries of weather, the Garden Club encourages residents to light up their trees, homes and flowering plants or shrubs *whenever they start 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 and beyond.

Community Christmas Celebration Open House

The Audubon Park Garden Club welcomed a nice crowd to its annual Community Christmas Celebration at City Hall which was held on a chilly but clear evening on Sunday, December 10th from 6-8 pm. Nearly 50 neighbors and friends came to this event which ushers in the holiday season and focuses on fellowship and community spirit! The Garden Club provided wonderful refreshments including hot cider and delicious baked treats. The winners of the cash door prizes were Dr. Peter Tanguay (\$50) and Andrew Klump (\$100).

The Garden Club would like to thank the many residents who helped decorate the lampposts along Audubon's streets and would encourage those streets that don't currently decorate to join in next year! The beautifully decorated lampposts add to the festive atmosphere and definitely help everyone get in the holiday spirit. *The Community Christmas Celebration (and city newsletter) would like to acknowledge those decorating volunteers: Audubon Parkway – Vernon Weickel; Cardinal – Rob Mullen, John Nunnally, Rob Gates and Steve Stevens; Falcon – Carl Heger and Jody Schaefer; Linnet – Ernie and Glen Diemer; Oriole – Mark Abel and Jack Conlin; Robin – Don Brumleve; Thrush – Victor and Linda Perrone.* If you know anyone who decorates the lampposts on your street and hasn't been recognized, please call Anita Garrison at 637-8837 so we can add their names to our lists.

Louisville Grows and Gardening for Birds

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Two very interesting programs were held recently that might be of interest to Audubon Park residents. *January's* program featured *Louisville Grows*, a nonprofit group headquartered in the Portland area, whose mission is "to grow a just and sustainable community through urban agriculture, urban forestry, and environmental education." Focusing on rebuilding the urban tree canopy in "tree desert" areas, they have planted over 1800 trees to date. They also have sponsored 10 community gardens, a CSA farm, and four community orchards. They are always looking for volunteers and additional information regarding their upcoming Seeds and Starts plant sale is listed in Gardening Tidbits.

February's program highlighted "*Gardening for Songbirds*" by guest speaker and master gardener Jacquelyn McGrail, and focused a lot of attention on the status of birds and threats to their survival. Because of Audubon Park's designation as a Bird Sanctuary, many residents are interested in their welfare. Ms. McGrail noted that there are 914 bird species in the US, and 230 of these are deemed to be at risk of extinction (as of 2014); there are 50% fewer birds today than 40 years ago, and the status of birds in any given location is a major indicator of the health of the environment. To help birds survive and thrive, she suggested choosing native plants to provide shelter, protection, nesting sites and food sources and to avoid toxic garden chemicals such as pesticides and herbicides. Providing bird feeders, water and nesting boxes are all positive steps that help birds.

Good plants for birds include ink berries, viburnum, and Leucothoe; trees such as oaks, mulberries, little crabapple, cherry, plum, American beech and birch are also bird-friendly for nesting sites or food. She cautioned that nandina bushes, while beautiful, have cyanide in their berries, and thus are not good for the bird population.

Upcoming Garden Club Programs

The Garden Club hosts a monthly program series from September to May. 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 can also be found on the city's webpage, www.audubonparkky.org, in the Garden Club heading under the Community tab. Upcoming programs include:

Monday, March 12 2018: "Irisess" with guest speaker Robert Strohman from the Louisville Iris Society.

Monday, April 19, 2018: "Peonies" with guest speaker Jeff Wallitsch from Wallitsch Nursery and Garden Center.

Tuesday, May 9, 2017: "Installation of Officers." This meeting is the annual spring luncheon, held at Audubon Country Club, 3265 Robin Rd, at 11:45 a.m. Reservations are required, and there is a fee for the luncheon. Contact Grace Worful at 375-9041 for reservations or for additional information. Weather permitting, the group will carpool to Whitehall Gardens, 3110 Lexington Road, following the luncheon.

Gardening Tidbits:

· The Garden Club has hired a part-time gardener, with funds provided by both the Garden Club and the Forest Board, to help care for shrubs at City Hall, the Preston Street entrance and the flower beds in Wren and Robin parks, especially around light boxes. This gardener will also work with the Forest Board in pruning park and easement trees. The individual flower beds will continue to be cared for by Park residents, and we would like to publicly thank *Leah Netherland* and *Marie Eff* for their work on the bed at the 5-way stop at Audubon Parkway/Chickadee/Cross Bill and to *Mick* and *Rick Vissing* for their efforts at the circle bed at the flagpole. We are trying to finalize resident

volunteers for the bed at the intersection of Robin Road and Audubon Parkway.

- *Louisville Grows* is holding a *Seeds and Starts Plant Sale*, Saturday April 14th from 10-4 at the People's Garden, 536 North 44th Street (across from Shawnee Golf Course), which will offer perennial herbs, vegetable starts, small fruit trees, berry bushes, potting soil, mulch compost and annual flowers. A second sale will be held May 12th at the same time and place. Members get 25% off everything, and a special preview sale date on Friday 4/13 from 4-7 pm. If you want more information about becoming a member, please call 551-3422 or go to their webpage at www.louisvillegrows.org.
- The Garden Club is selling soil knives (*AM Leonard* deluxe) for \$25/each, as well as Atlas *Palmflex* garden gloves for \$6/pair, in S, M, L, and XL. Contact Janet Shumate at 636-0111 if you would like to purchase these items. They make great gifts for gardeners!

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 not too early 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 \$20 filing fee. 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." And watch for more notices as the deadline approaches!

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 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. 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?

