




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

Can autumn have arrived so quickly? Schools are in session, pools have closed, and hurricanes, tragically, are all the news. The leaves will come soon enough.

Meanwhile, a quick look at some of the major undertakings in our neck of the woods:

Capital projects. With the City's fiscal health still improving, some deferred maintenance and capital improvements continue. Failing furnace and A/C units at City Hall have been replaced in part, and the remainder budgeted. Environmental window replacements not already completed are being bid. Entrance columns have been professionally restored, and arrangements set for regular protective care; power supplies for lighting (electric, gas, or both) are under solicitation. Aged and unreliable service vehicles have been sold, and replaced where essential. Rehabilitation of roads continues, with some reinforcement of road funds from general revenues, and remaining needs charted for the coming year. Much work still remains, to be sure, but progress is encouraging.

Non-capital projects. Less visible, but just as urgent for our health as a community, are the updating, revising and streamlining of the City's legal and administrative systems. Major efforts continue, at the frustratingly slow pace forced by the size of these tasks. The City's code of ordinances is being updated to conform to the last 20 years of new state law; restructured to make a coherent body out of the patchwork of provisions adopted over earlier decades;

and simplified to minimize duplication, overlap, obscure text and obsolete provisions. Similar projects are chartered or under way targeting the City's employee handbook; Council orientation materials; staff procedure manuals; records management system; and tax assessment and collection system. Ongoing litigation is being vigorously defended, to minimize the City's exposure or vulnerability.

Budget. The fiscal year 2018 budget, which began July 1st, is 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. Working toward the upcoming annual City audit, efforts continue to refine systems to

- Smoothly and properly roll over surplus funds for use in the new year. These may come from several sources: revenues exceeding expectations; savings on expenses; or projects not completed (and allocated funds not spent) for one reason or another. They can be re-authorized for the upcoming year with supplemental appropriations, once the final amounts are known.
- Account, display plainly, and control the flow of unaccustomed 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 community activities. There's been animated discussion over

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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.

- Track 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.

Citizenship. The pitch-in form of government we enjoy goes beyond just seating the City Council. We have a small group of dedicated salaried employees, mostly part-time, with specialized training and/or experience. Otherwise, the City runs on the time, talent and energy its citizens devote, with only the satisfaction of helping good things happen as compensation. Roles run the whole gamut, from Mayor and Council; to individual officials like the Engineer, Building Director, and Archivist; to Boards for Ethics, Code Enforcement, Parks and Recreation, and the Forest; to *ad hoc* volunteer efforts over the whole range of public gardening and beautification, community cleanup, information mailing and delivery, event participation, activity support, and more. Please note the Council's own generous expression of gratitude for some of these contributions appearing in this issue. And when you see an appeal for help, please pitch in where you can. That's what makes it all work!

Waste management. The current contract arrangements seem to be working fairly smoothly so far, though close monitoring continues. Most feedback heard to date has *not* been about having enough pickups, or enough capacity, or the bill; instead, it's about making sure all have the word about the current schedule, and are discouraged from putting clutter on the street too early, or leaving it too late. Individual pickup problems still sometimes occur, of course, and City Hall still works to help resolve those as they're reported. This 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.

Utility and service work. In this period of pleasant weather, there've been several utility projects undertaken, large and small, bringing opportunities to remind service providers of their obligation to keep residents informed, and to treat their property responsibly. The main oversight tool we have is the permitting process required for utility work in the City. 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 communications functions the City performs by law.

A quick word on the 'big buzz' projects involving fiber-optic cable for super-fast Internet access. AT&T has installed trunk lines along the main routes in the western part of the City, to Oriole Drive. They have begun offering connections to individual residences from these lines, but it's not clear when they plan to do so. While expected, no application has yet reached City Hall for extending the project into the rest of the City, east of Oriole.

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 is reported to be the first local area to be installed; no word yet when Audubon Park's turn might come.

AT&T's suit challenging Metro's ordinance allowing third parties to move existing equipment on utility poles to accommodate new lines remains pending, along with its uncertain effect on the project.

Traffic Enforcement. Temporary speed bumps were placed on Audubon Parkway at the five-way stop at Chickadee and Crossbill in late spring, for the trial discussed at our May 11 Town Hall meeting, and subsequently on our media outlets, to see if they'd improve compliance with the stops signs there, which had become a matter of mounting concern. Much useful feedback has already been generated across the

board, both on this novel application, as well as more traditional ones that usually come to mind. This will all be a great help in weighing the results of the trial before deciding whether something more permanent is justified.

Councilor Lisa Weaver kindly produced the outline and brief questionnaire below, reprinted from the last issue, to help get more feedback. After taking ample time to observe, as the trial is meant for, please use this questionnaire as a cutout, or just a template, to give your input. This is not a scientific poll, to be sure, but the Council will surely appreciate your thoughts. It's likely this will be discussed by the onset of winter, after the 'temp bumps' are taken up to avoid interfering with snow removal. Let us hear from you!

Activities. This spring and summer provided an outstanding combination of public and private fun in our public spaces, from our signature Dogwood Festival activities, to an excellent Independence Day parade, to a spectacular Dove Road block party. Please see the flyer being delivered with this newsletter on this fall's *Auktoberfest*. Just two things to keep in mind:

- These are *your* spaces, so please use them, and your imagination, to have some fun – and let us know what we can do to help!
- When City-wide events come up, we need *your* help to pull them off, so please pitch in where you can! Sign up early, and avoid all the arm-twisting!

See you around the Park. Don't forget to wave!

SPEED BUMPS

Contribution by Councilor Lisa Weaver

You may have noticed that temporary speed bumps have been placed at the stop signs on Audubon Parkway at the five way intersection of Audubon, Chickadee and Cross Bill. This is an experiment by your City to see if the speed bumps will help slow down the traffic on the Parkway and also keep motorists from "rolling through" the stop signs at that intersection.

We would like your opinion, as residents of Audubon Park, as to whether or not you think this is a viable or helpful solution to the problem. This is your chance to be involved in a decision that will affect all of our citizens!

Please fill out the following short survey and let us know your thoughts. The trial will go on for the rest of the temperate season, so please take your time to observe and form a solid opinion. Your response can be returned to City Hall by any of the available channels – phone, fax, mail, email, media message, or drop-by. The results will be compiled and brought before the Council for discussion.

Thank you, in advance, for your thoughts!

The speed bumps are effective, make them permanent.

Yes No

The speed bumps do not help, remove them.

Yes No

The speed bumps help, but are unsightly, find another solution.

Yes No

There is no problem at this intersection.

Yes No

Comments: _____

FOREST BOARD NEWS

Leah Netherland, Chair

When done correctly, mulching is one of the best things we can do to improve the health of our trees. When done incorrectly, it can be one of the worst things. Proper mulching encourages the development of additional roots that do not thrive as well under grass. The additional roots provide more water and minerals to the tree. But piling too much mulch against the tree trunk can slowly kill your tree. The mulch that touches the trunk will keep the bark moist, making it

more attractive to rodents, insects and fungi. Mulch that is more than 4" thick actually prevents water from getting to the roots.

CALL LEAH (638-8919) TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT FOR A FREE ON-SITE MULCH CONSULTATION.

We still have funding for our Ash Removal/Tree Replacement Program. We also offer other tree planting programs.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT ON PARKS & RECREATION BOARD

Audubon Park City Council

The Audubon Park City Council would like to extend special recognition to past and present members of the Parks & Recreation Board for their hard work and generosity of time, talent and treasure. The Board was formed in September of 2014 for the purpose of planning community events as well as developing and overseeing our park resources. Under the inaugural Board's leadership, we all have enjoyed the fine festivals of Light Up Audubon and Auktoberfest in addition to the Fourth of July Parade and the continuation of the Dove Block Party. Our parks have been greatly improved by the addition of swings and creative seating for everyone in our community to enjoy. The Board has been supported by many community volunteers as well as Audubon Park employees.

Parks & Recreation Board members who have collectively contributed innumerable hours and thousands of their own dollars have included: Sterling Denham, Laura Jones, Mike Lalley, James Palazzo, Sarah Parker, Jeff Prewitt, Amy Shelton, Daniel Stephen, and Mark Stevens. The Board has also been supported by many extraordinary volunteers including Brittney Gorter, Leah Netherland, Nancy Shelton, Darrell Shelton, and Tony Williams as well as City employees Janette Mercer and Jason Payne. Next time you see one of these people on the street, be sure to say thank that person for his or her service in making Audubon Park a wonderful place to live.

Our Current Board is comprised of Sterling Denham and James Palazzo. That means there are currently four vacancies that need to be filled. Please consider giving of your time by offering to serve on the Parks and Recreation Board or by volunteering to help at one of the many great events it plans and organizes.

Stay tuned for the winter newsletter when the Volunteer Spotlight will be on the Forest Board! If you know of a special person who gives of his or her time to our community, please contact any member of the Audubon Park City Council.

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

Chief Doug Sweeney

Since I assumed the position of Chief of Police for your beautiful city, I have focused attention on creating a professional, competent, and community-oriented staff of sworn officers. To this end, all of the current officers served through to retirement at the Louisville Metro Police Department, with the exception of one, who retired as a Major at the Shively PD. I knew all of them personally prior to hiring them, and knew of their reputations and quite often their professional abilities.

A top priority has also been keeping crime as low as possible. I have shared in numerous forums, and at various times, comparisons of the reported crime in Audubon Park and that of the surrounding Metro Louisville (40213 zip code). Audubon Park comprises almost exactly ten percent of the population. In each report, for the date range compared, your city has always had far fewer crimes reported – in all categories – than one would expect based on population. For example, in the most recent comparison (2016), Metro Louisville showed more than 2000 reported crimes, many of them felonies. Statistically, one would think that Audubon Park would then have over 200... yet we only had 38 TOTAL reported crimes! The vast majority were misdemeanors. I have to believe that the work and presence of your police department are responsible for the extraordinarily low incidence of crime.

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On another, but related subject, in addition to the enforcement of state laws, your city has many of its own ordinances, which carry the force of law. A lot of them are non-criminal, violations of which can attach fines payable to the City of Audubon Park, or civil penalties, liens, etc. In many small cities and jurisdictions, a Code Enforcement Officer handles the enforcement of these ordinances. In fact, your city had a CEO for many years.

Some violations of ordinances are more readily noticeable, and irritating to your fellow neighbors (overly tall grass is one example). I or my officers will typically stop and have a conversation with a resident in violation in order to get the situation resolved without a citation being issued. Some violations we tend to react to when notified by a resident. That is, if no one has complained, it might not be a top priority for my officers.

One such ordinance that has escaped scrutiny pertains to recreational vehicles and work trucks parked on owners' property. I will admit that I have noticed them since I started here as an officer about 3 ½ years ago. At that time I wasn't even aware it was a violation. Once I became aware, it occurred to me that no one had ever complained. So, absent any complaints, I overlooked the violations.

Recently, however, I have received more than one complaint of the violation of your ordinance, **Sec. 5-6.07 Exterior Parking of Vehicles and Non-operating Vehicles.** Because of that, I feel it incumbent upon me to give notice of the violations to the offending parties, but also to allow an amnesty period. That is, I want to allow those in violation time to correct the situation. The ordinance is listed below, but a quick summation is this: you cannot visibly park an RV, camper, boat, or a work truck on your property for more than 24 hours. Specifics are as follows:

(a) No person shall permit any commercial vehicle to remain or be parked on any property within the city unless such vehicle is in an enclosed building or so located upon the property as not to be readily visible from any street or adjoining

property except that this section shall not apply to any truck or other motor vehicle used for commercial or business purposes parked upon such property or street adjacent to such property at the time when the owner or driver of such vehicle is furnishing goods or services to the owner or occupant of such property.

(b) No person shall permit any truck not described as a commercial vehicle in this ordinance or any recreational vehicle to remain or be parked on any property within the city unless such vehicle is in an enclosed building or located to the rear of the dwelling on such property and not readily visible from the street except that this section shall not apply to any recreational vehicle remaining or parked on such property for a period not to exceed 24 hours in any six day period for the purpose of loading or unloading such vehicle or otherwise preparing the same for immediate recreational use.

(c) A motor vehicle of any type that is inoperable or that cannot be legally operated upon the streets or roadways of the city or Jefferson County shall not remain or be parked longer than thirty days on any property within the city unless such vehicle is in an enclosed building.

(i) "Commercial Vehicle" means any truck with the manufacturer's rating of one (1) ton or over or any truck or trailer of any size used primarily for business, any other vehicle containing readily visible tools, business equipment, or supplies.

(ii) "Recreational Vehicle" means camper, house car, motor home, trailer, van, boat, or other vehicle primarily used for recreational purposes.

If you are one of those currently in violation of the above ordinance, please have it remedied by October 15, 2017. After that date, my officers will begin issuing citations.

THANK YOU in advance for your cooperation!

AUDUBON PARK GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Joanne Bader

New Year of Garden Club Programs to begin in September

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 Web site: www.audubonparkky.org, in the Garden Club heading under the Community tab.

Monday, September 11, 2017: "Layering Bulbs in Pots," with guest speaker Emma Stidham from Wallitsch Nursery and Garden Center.

Thursday, October 12, 2017: "Dogwood Tree Planting Strategies," with guest speaker Andy Smart from The Plant Kingdom. This meeting is the Fall Dinner, held at Audubon Country Club, 3265 Robin Rd. at 6:00 p.m. Reservations are required and there is a fee for dinner. Contact Grace Worful at 375-9041 for reservations or additional information.

Monday, November 13, 2017: "Orchids," with guest speaker Peggy Grace from Audubon Animal Hospital. Those interested in attending should meet at Audubon Park City Hall at 1 p.m., and the group will carpool to 1311 Durrett Lane.

Monday, January 8, 2018: "Louisville Urban Growers," with guest speaker Whitney Sewell from Louisville Grows.

Monday, February 12, 2018: "Gardening for Songbirds," 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 12 2018: "Irises," 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. 11:45 a.m. Reservations are required and there is a fee for the luncheon. Contact Grace Worful at 375-9041 for reservations or additional information. Weather permitting, the group will carpool to Whitehall Gardens, 3110 Lexington Road, following the luncheon.

In Memoriam

The Audubon Park Garden Club lost three longtime members over the past several months: Leoutis "**Odie**" **Frasher**, **Gene Stotz**, and **Helen Ritter**. All of them were very active in the Garden Club – some for decades.

Odie (as she was affectionately known) **Frasher** was a three-term Club President and active in a variety of committees over the years. She and her husband Bob were great supporters of the Festival of the Dogwood. They also were Audubon Park residents for approximately 50 years.

Gene Stotz was the past president of the Garden Club, and served in many official capacities as a committee chair and club auditor. Gene was a co-chair of the annual Garden Tour for many years, a frequent participant in the Brightside cleanups, and a frequent presence weeding and beautifying the plantings around City Hall.

Helen Ritter was a force of nature – if you had the good fortune to meet her and know her! A Garden Club member for 40 years, she was involved in countless committees and involved in bettering Audubon Park in so many ways. Helen was born in

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her home in Audubon Park (on Cardinal Drive) and remained a lifelong resident until her last years which were spent at Franciscan Health Care Center.

All three were passionate supporters of Audubon Park and the Garden Club and worked tirelessly to improve our community. Words cannot express our sorrow with the passing of three such amazing individuals. If you would like to remember any of these three, memorial donations (tax deductible) can be made in their name to the Memorial Tree Fund through the Audubon Park Garden Club by contacting Janet Shumate at 636-0111 or mailing them to her at 1218 Falcon Drive.

Gardening Tidbits:

- The Plant Sale, held in late June, raised nearly \$200 which will be used to help with ongoing beautification projects in Audubon Park. Many thanks to the many Garden Club and other Park residents who donated plantings from their gardens to the sale.
- The Garden Club is selling soil knives (AM Leonard deluxe) for \$25 each, as well as Atlas Palmflex garden gloves for \$6/pr and they come in S, M, L, and XL. Contact Janet Shumate at 636-0111 if you would like to purchase these items. They make great stocking stuffers!!

Community Christmas Celebration – Mark your Calendars for December 10th!

The annual Christmas Community Celebration is scheduled for Sunday, December 10th at City Hall between 6 – 8 pm. More information will be distributed to residents prior to the event, but the holiday celebrations may be larger this year than in previous years since the City's Parks and Recreation Board is hoping to expand activities for all ages to get you into the holiday spirit!

BRIGHTSIDE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR OCTOBER 21ST CLEANUP

Audubon Park has participated in the semi-annual Brightside cleanup along the Preston corridor for the last several years. While this was primarily a Garden

Club sponsored event every April and October, circumstances have now necessitated the need to look to the residents of Audubon Park to help out with this event. The upcoming cleanup is scheduled city-wide for Saturday, October 21st, usually between the hours of 9 am – noon. The City hopes to find some residents to either serve as a coordinator for this twice a year event, or just come out to pick up trash near the Audubon Parkway entrance to beautify one of the key entries to our community.

Cathy Lally, who formerly coordinated the Brightside cleanup, is willing to explain how the program works if someone is willing to step up as coordinator. Brightside provides work gloves, trash bags, and t-shirts for those helping in the cleanup. She can be reached at 773-0780. We hope that others will also take the initiative to bring their rakes, brooms and trash bags to help beautify this area. This would be a great project for parents who have school kids needing service hours! Please contact City Hall if you'd like to help!

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 positive 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.

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 *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?