




The Official Newsletter of The City of Audubon Park



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MAYOR'S MUSINGS

Dorn Crawford

Greetings, everybody. Is it safe to come out for spring now?

It's been a tough winter season, in more ways than one. You're aware by now of the tragic loss of Jim King, our long-serving District 10 representative, and President of the Metro Council. This cost us not only a highly effective advocate, but a good and true friend – and he'll be missed more than these pages can express.

The only easing of the impact comes in the willingness of Steve Magre to step into this breach, at least for the short term. Of a group of very skilled and attractive candidates, Steve was the one guy who had been an active and unflagging participant in Jim's District 10 Advisory Board (as well as a long-time pre-merger Louisville Alderman), and so having followed District issues closely all along, was uniquely capable of hitting the ground at full stride, as the situation demanded. He's already conducted a renewed meeting of that body, identifying it as an anchor of his Metro Council efforts. This is a welcome sign that, despite this heavy blow, we will go on as true to form as possible.

General Assembly. We're also coming to the end of an off-budget session of the General Assembly, ably represented by our indefatigable House District 35 representative Jim Wayne, and more recently installed District 19 Senator Morgan McGarvey. Both have appeared at recent Council meetings, and engaged freely in providing feedback and discussing our concerns. The session itself seems one of limited accomplishment – though, for those who apply the doctor's oath to the workings of state government ("first, do no harm"), maybe that's a good thing. At

FOREST FEST!

In conjunction with the 2015 Audubon Park Dogwood Festival, The City of Audubon Park will celebrate the urban forest that makes our neighborhood special with a community event, Forest Fest! This celebration will take place on Friday, April 17th from 6-9 pm in Henderson Park (the park bordered by Wren and Linnet). Forest Fest! will include live music by *Appalatin*, food and beverage vendors, the official lighting of trees in Henderson Park, children's activities, and Arbor Day commemoration. The event is free (aside from vending), and open to the public. The Parks and Recreation Board is currently seeking event sponsors to help defray expenses, as well as volunteers for setup and monitoring. For more information contact Laura Jones, 502-593-3584, or LauraAJones@hotmail.com.

City Hall, with the state budget off the table, we're following mostly bills with implications for the City's integrity and home rule authority – and of the few that might have strayed into that area, none seems to have succeeded. We'll keep watching.

LOAD. Ironically, the most significant result of the session for us may be an unintended one. The predominant item on the recent air waves was the Local Investment for Transformation ("LIFT") bill (or Local Option Sales Tax ("LOST"), depending on your disposition). Audubon Park doesn't have a sales tax, of course – so our own search for ways to pay for good programs by legitimate means continues, after scaling back the sanitation fees last year. But amid all the LIFT talk, something surprising turned up: state law

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already provides for the same option in our *property* tax structure. In fun, let's call this the Local Option *Ad valorem* Deal (or, "LOAD").

This is something we should talk about. It operates the same way as the LIFT proposal: for a specific project, we can have a ballot referendum, describing the project and estimated cost, and asking the voters whether they want it. If it passes as a LOAD, however, the cost is divided according to property valuation, and placed as a surcharge on the regular tax bill, accounted for separately, and expires when the project is paid for. This seems like an attractive way for a dedicated community like ours to take stock of its wants and needs for specific initiatives.

The bad news is, it's slow, requiring a full election cycle and then the following tax cycle to take effect. But that's democracy – giving the whole community a direct voice in how their money is spent. If there's enough interest, we could try a test case this year, with one of several projects that have been on hold for lack of funding.

Tax and Budget Season. For the current year, meanwhile, we're entering the season of hard choices on operating needs and revenue sources. In a recent mailing you may have read that the fiscal year 2014 audit report has found the City's deficit reduced from \$338K to \$70K on July 1 – and that remainder was paid off in the early days of the new fiscal year. That doesn't mean we're out of the woods – but I think at least you can see the meadow from here. Still, our bare-bones operating tempo is tenuous, uncertainties are many, and some needs remain unmet. The small hike just adopted in the license fee on insurance companies (passed along to their customers, you and me, of course) is described in that mailing as one way to help fill the remaining holes. But there's much more to discuss in setting priorities and exploring options for the year to come. I hope you'll join us for the next City Council meeting on April 20th, in a Town Hall format at Audubon school, and make sure your voice, ideas and judgment are heard.

Meet 'n' Greet. Many thanks to the Garden Club for hosting "Welcoming Neighbors – Let Us Introduce Ourselves" at City Hall on March 9th (see Joanne Bader's column for additional coverage). This meeting

gave the Council, most of the City's officials and staff, and board chairs an opportunity to see and be seen, and engage in casual conversation with all those attending. It was a great event, and I hope we can repeat it at regular intervals. Most of the City's formal support structure is now in place, thankfully, with only the occasional turnover to manage as people come and go.

At the moment, we're only seeking replacements for the City Engineer and an alternate member of the Code Enforcement Board – so please check in if either of these is of interest. The City of course continues to rely heavily on the corps of self-starters who invariably step up when community needs arise. As the planting and tending season arrives, for one example, be sure and wave at Darrell and Nancy Shelton at the Preston entrance, Mike and Cathy Lally at the Robin Road island, Betty Weise at Triangle Park, Anne Bobigian at the flagpole, and many others who work their wonders on the scenic beds there.

Spring! The biggest challenge to the focus discussed above on tax and budget issues (aside from the NCAA tournament, of course) is the wonderful season arriving, beckoning everyone outside to enjoy the neighborhood, and prepare for our premier rite of spring, the Festival of the Dogwood. Details of this event can be found in the "Garden Club News," and in a separate flyer being delivered along with this newsletter. In addition, our new Parks and Recreation Board has kicked off its work by organizing an excellent "Forest Fest" celebration, together with the Forest Board, featuring music, refreshment vendors, kids' activities, Arbor Day commemoration, and tree lighting in Henderson Park. See the box at the head of this column, and flyers and notices to come, for more information. Don't miss this headliner, whatever you do!

And More Spring – In My Step! As many of you know, I'm nearing the end of recuperation from a leg broken in a bike spill in the fall. It's not possible to properly express my gratitude for all the well-wishing, prayers and encouragement I've gotten while limping around the City, or cruising back and forth to City Hall in a golf cart generously loaned by our neighbors at Audubon Club. Thanks so much for your support; I promise I'll keep looking for ways to earn it.

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FOREST BOARD

Betty Weise

During the seemingly endless winter of 2014-2015, Forest Board members surveyed all front yards in Audubon Park, noting all canopy and understory trees. A list of 15-20 sites has been compiled, and will form the basis for our 2015 planting effort, "Plant the Easy Places First". These residences have the open space needed to readily accept a canopy tree. A representative from the Forest Board will contact each prospective homeowner in the next 2-3 weeks. While there is no obligation to accept a tree, we continue to make every effort to re-establish/maintain our tree canopy.

The Board will sponsor an educational tent at this year's Forest Fest event on Friday, April 17th from 6-9 pm in Henderson Park. We will have demonstrations as well as games and quizzes for adults and kids. Stop by, say hello and sign up for a prize!

Please join us in Oriole Park on Saturday, April 18th at 10:00 am, for our Arbor Day tree planting. We will remember long-time resident Ethelyn Maxwell and her tireless efforts on behalf of Audubon Park's Forest Board and Garden Club. Proper planting techniques will be demonstrated and tips provided to help you jump-start the growing season.

Regular Board meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of each month, 6:30pm, at City Hall, and are open to the public.

AUDUBON PARK GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Joanne Bader

Festival of the Dogwood to be held April 17-19

As I write this, snow is finally starting to melt and the hope of spring is around the corner! The Festival of the Dogwood is scheduled for the weekend of April 17-19, and hopefully the dogwood blooms will cooperate and be at their best that weekend. However, Mother Nature doesn't always comply, so the Garden Club requests that residents light up their trees, shrubs, flowers and homes whenever the dogwoods start to bloom, but especially from Thursday April 16th through

Sunday the 19th (and in the event trees are not blooming during the scheduled festival, they request that you light up your homes). Residents are also asked to spruce up their yards, as this is a major springtime event that draws lots of area visitors to see the splendor of Audubon's dogwood trees. The annual free concert will be held Sunday afternoon at 3 pm at Audubon Baptist Church, 1046 Hess Lane, with music provided by the River Cities Concert Band. This group plays a mixture of patriotic and show tunes as well as light classical music. Refreshments will be served and the Mayor, Council and other dignitaries are expected to be present at the event. The Garden Club hopes we can encourage *more* residents to light up their trees, flowering plants or shrubs and homes this year.

Community "Meet and Greet" a Huge Success!

The Audubon Park Garden Club held an evening meeting on March 9th at City Hall in collaboration with representatives from city government (including Mayor and Council members, the City's attorney and the Police Chief and several officers) and City boards such as the Forest Board, Ethics Board, Code Enforcement Board and the newly formed Parks and Recreation Board. Entitled "Welcoming Our Neighbors – Let Us Introduce Ourselves", the purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity to learn more about each of the community groups that works for the betterment of Audubon Park and to allow an exchange of information and ideas. The event was held in the evening to provide an alternative to those who have to miss daytime meetings due to work.

Every seat at City Hall was filled and there was a great sharing of information about the goals and plans of the various groups. Many in the audience remained after the presentations to meet the group representatives and to ask questions. Delicious refreshments were provided by the Garden Club. Due to the success of the event, efforts are being made to hold a similar meeting next year to allow more people to participate – hope you can be one of them if you missed it this year!

Community Christmas Celebration (CCC)

Audubon Park hosted another successful Community Christmas Celebration on Sunday, December 14th, 2014 at City Hall. This event, sponsored by the Garden

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Club, ushered in the holiday season and was very well attended. Approximately 65 residents were joined by representatives of City government and our police department to enjoy hot cider, coffee and delicious holiday cookies! Mayor Crawford used the gathering to thank the outgoing Council members and to introduce the new members. Mark Stevens and Chuck Pfeifer won the monetary door prizes of \$100 and \$50, respectively; many other guests won gift certificates and other prizes. To the delight of younger visitors, the police department handed out stuffed animals! The Garden Club would like to acknowledge Frank's Meats as well as the individual members of the CCC committee (Anita Garrison, Carolyn Dawson, Cathy Lally, and Diane Osborne) who sponsored the event and donated door prizes.

The Garden Club appreciated the large number of residents who decorated their homes in the holiday spirit, and they were especially pleased that so many decorated their streetlamps this year! Several residents spend cold weekends in this effort, and we'd like to acknowledge those decorating "elves," including (but not limited to) Don Brumleve (Robin), Linda and Victor Perrone (Thrush), Rob Mullen, Rob Gates, Steve Stevens and John Nunnally (Cardinal), Norb Wafzig (Audubon Pkwy), Ernie and Glen Diemer (Linnet) and Mark and Susan Abel and Jack Conlin (Oriole). If any other "elves" were inadvertently not listed, please call Anita Garrison at 637-8837 so we can add their names to our lists. All in all, it was a very festive start to the holiday season!

Brightside Cleanup Scheduled for Saturday, April 18th

Brightside's Community-Wide Spring Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, April 18th. Members of the Garden Club encourage residents to come out to volunteer at 9 a.m. that morning to clean up around the Preston Highway entrance to Audubon Park. Brightside will provide gloves, bags and t-shirts and volunteers may wish to bring along rakes, brooms or other gardening tools to help in the cleanup. Last fall, several parents came with their children to pitch in – which is a great intro to community service!

The Garden Club sponsors neighborhood cleanups along Preston Highway in conjunction with Brightside twice a year, in the spring and fall. Garden Club

member Cathy Lally coordinates the event, and can be reached at 773-0780 for more information. Come and be a part of making Audubon Park a more beautiful community!

Audubon Park Garden Tour – Saturday June 27th

Audubon Park's 14th Annual Garden Tour is scheduled for Saturday, June 27th from 10 am to 4 pm. Information is not yet available regarding gardens to be featured on the tour, but tickets will be available at City Hall on the day of the event. Audubon Park will likely continue to participate in the Passport Program which allows interested gardeners to purchase discounted tickets for a "package" of Garden Tours: Audubon Park, Old Louisville's Hidden Treasures Tour and Crescent Hill. For more information about the Passport Program or Audubon's garden tour, please call Gene Stotz at 634-4921 or Mary Miller at 635-7322. We hope you will invite family and friends to join you in touring the local gardens; all proceeds from the event are returned to the community via funds for park maintenance or tree plantings, or for community-wide events such as the Community Christmas Celebration and the Dogwood Festival.

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 Club President, Gene Stotz, at 634-4921 for more information. Upcoming programs include:

Monday, April 13, 2015: "New Ideas for Spring Containers" with guest speaker Jeff Wallitsch of Wallitsch Nursery and Garden Center.

Tuesday, May 12, 2015: "Installation of Officers and Our Year – Past and Future". This program will be held at Audubon Country Club, 3265 Robin Road, as part of the Spring Luncheon series. The meeting begins at 11:45 am; there will be a charge for lunch. Reservations can be made by calling Ann Dyer at 634-3058 or Cheryl Westbay at 634-1239.

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HELLO - WHO'S THERE?



Hello! I am Officer Steve Boughey, and I retired from the Louisville Metro Police Department last year. Before joining the (former) Louisville Division of Police, I received a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Louisville. As a police officer, I worked in many different areas including serving as a Flex Detective. I spent the majority of my career in the

Narcotics Unit. While with the Narcotics Unit, I was blessed to receive the "Narcotics Officer of the Year" Award. This was humbling, as there is only one Detective that receives this award each year in the United States and it comes from the White House. The award nomination was based on my innovations while working in the Airport Drug Interdiction Section of the Narcotics Unit. I am "married, with children" I am also very happy to be a part of the Audubon Park Police Department, and it fits my home life and professional life perfectly. I work the "midnight shift", so I don't get to see as many of you as I would like. However, I am sold on the direction your police department is taking, and am excited to contribute to its "Community Oriented Policing" model.



Hello! I am Marcia (pronounced "Marcie") Davis. I joined the Audubon Park Police Department in May of 2014. I retired with the rank of Lieutenant from the Louisville Metro Police Department, after having been hired by the former Jefferson County Police Department in 1996. I began my law enforcement career in 1986 as a civilian with the FBI. I was hired as

a sworn police officer in 1990 by the Lexington (Kentucky) Police Department.

While serving as a sworn police officer I served in a patrol capacity for approximately nine and a half years. I served in the Violent Crimes Homicide Unit for over four years and then was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. I served in this position as a Patrol Sergeant and as a Division Detective Sergeant. I was then promoted to the rank of Lieutenant,

where I served again in the Patrol Division, before becoming Commander of the Property Unit.

After retiring from the Louisville Metro Police Department I began to miss public service and interacting with the community. I've known Chief Sweeney and Corporal Laun for many years. After hearing them tout the attributes of your wonderful community I applied for a position. I am very happy to have been selected to continue my law enforcement career serving the citizens of Audubon Park.



Hi, I am Officer Ed Loudon. I retired from the Louisville Metro Police Department last March. I graduated with a Bachelor's Degree from Arkansas State where I played 4 years of basketball as a shooting guard. I started my Law Enforcement Career at the Luther Lockett Medium Security Correctional Facility. I then worked as a Probation and Parole Officer in the

Louisville area until being hired with the (former) Louisville Division of Police in 1998. I served the community as a Bike Officer, Flex Detective, and as a ATF (Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms) Task Force Office. I attended the ATF's first Task Force Officer Academy. I am married with two boys - who hope to follow in my footsteps and play college basketball. I am very happy to be part of the Audubon Park Family and hope to provide excellent service to the community.

More introductions to follow - please stay tuned!

COMMUNICATIONS

Staying in touch has been a centerpiece of current City government, with an evolving mix of meetings, newsletters, Web site development, social media, text/email/voicemail bursts, newspaper notices, letter mail, hand delivery, supplies placed for pickup - and, of course, direct access to City Hall and Council members. We need your help to make sure the mix is as effective as possible.

If you're not already 'wired in,' please review the channels available for different City communications that may be of interest:

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For urgent messages you can elect to receive by any combination of voice-mail, text message, or email, visit ReachAlert.com and sign up for the Audubon Park service you prefer. This is being provided on a complimentary basis for now, so it's important to see whether it's useful enough to contract later.

For more routine notices you'd still like to get an email (only) about, contact City Hall either by phone or through the Web site (see below) to be added to the *AudubonNews* distribution list. We're also examining ways to spruce up this service offered at low or no cost by a growing number of promotional and management services.

For topical discussion, general news and notices, and open dialogue on issues of interest, 'like' one or more of the City's Facebook pages:

- *Friends of Audubon Park*: more historical content, but fewer subscribers for dialogue.
- *Audubon Park Residents*: curtailed history after forced conversion of format, but more subscribers. Otherwise generally same content as *Friends*.
- *City of Audubon Park Police*: focus on law enforcement issues and events.

You may also encounter a couple of other pages maintained by private citizens: *Friends and Residents of Audubon Park* is a socially-oriented general information page; *Audubon Park Residents* (same name as above) is a closed group. There's a lot of buzz out there – don't miss out!

For reference material, archives, and procedural help, the City's Web site, AudubonParkKY.org, is a growing and definitive resource. A further collection of invaluable forest-specific material can be found at TreeCommittee-APKY.org.

State law requires ordinances and some other official notices to be published, in full or by certified summary, either by newspaper, or first-class direct mail. With current newspaper circulation, and rates, mailings are the much more effective choice. But 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?

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

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

- There is no parking permitted on the street or on parking pads between 2 A.M. and 6 A.M. There is also no parking permitted on the grass. Please inform guests to your home of this important information.
- 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 just like to have a yard sale, please call or come by City Hall for more information on obtaining a permit.

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!

- 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 Tree Committee's Web site, TreeCommittee-APKY.org.
- Trash collection days in the City are Tuesdays and Fridays. Recycling is collected on Tuesday, and yard waste on Friday. Garbage is picked up from behind your house both days, while yard waste and recycling items are to be placed at the curb. Be sure to report any missed collection to City Hall.

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