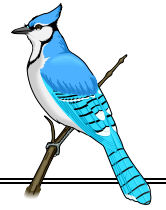





The Official Newsletter of The City of Audubon Park



*Dorn Crawford, Mayor
Janette Mercer, City Clerk*

*City Hall: 3340 Robin Road
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www.AudubonParkKY.org

 *Audubon Park Residents*



City Council:

*Joanne Bader
Lindsey Breen
Darrell Shelton*

*Laura Stevens
Tony Williams
Nancy Zinner*

Issue 71

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MAYOR'S MUSINGS

Dorn Crawford

Hope everybody's had a great summer! What an exclamation point our excellent Dove Road neighbors gave us, reinforced by the tireless Parks & Rec Board and others, with a second rendition of the Best Block Party Ever. What's next? Look for a flyer with this newsletter proclaiming the Audubon Auktoberfest, an October 10 gathering in Oriole Park featuring Bluegrass music, picnic fare, beverage vending, a food truck or two, community fellowship, and kids' activities like face painting, puppeteering, and pumpkin decorating. Save the date!

That's the fun part. The rest of City Hall's agenda continues to resemble a game of Whack-A-Mole, which can be fun too, but energy-intensive, as new challenges pop up.

Our new fiscal year is now fully in swing, and with the bottom line in the black, we're beginning to look toward meeting long-delayed obligations. Last fiscal year's books are with our auditors, and we await their final tally, but it's clear we are out of the hole, and beginning to chip away at things that still need doing.

Because the list remains long, we mustn't give up on finding creative ways to enhance revenue. But based on the improving climate, the Council decided to defer asking for City ballot referendums this year to vote on levies for either

- long-term park maintenance, or
- any specified short-term local-option projects.

One or more of these could be considered again next year, of course – but in the meantime, we'll continue to develop the City's capacity to

- conduct voluntary fund-raising activities;
- pursue grant opportunities from public and private sources for eligible programs; and
- acquire needed equipment through government and commercial surplus disposal.

The biggest challenge, like most of the City's activities, is to develop the procedures, contacts, experience and archives to make these efforts part of the standard skill set and routine. Please let me or your favorite Councilor know your thoughts and reactions, and other ideas we should be exploring. We look forward to hearing from you!

This is the same development and documentation effort that continues over a wide range of other critical functional areas needing such urgent attention, as we've discussed before:

- Recodification of the City's ordinances. This is a complete retooling of the City Code to conform to changes in statutes, eliminate conflicts, incorporate newer ordinances, and identify further areas to reinforce the City's viability and vitality.
- An updated and streamlined Council reference packet of key background material, resources and procedural guidance.
- A thoroughly revised City Employee Handbook, consolidating personnel policies, standards of conduct, compensation, and work schedules.
- City staff procedure guides for recurring functions, to permit consistent, predictable and reliable results from staff operations in all areas.
- A coherent records management system that meets state standards, and provides secure storage, access and retrieval of essential City working materials and archives.

“Provided as a service to our neighbors”

These are the sorts of efforts that don't produce an immediate visible splash in the neighborhood – but are the foundations of functions and programs that can do so.

That doesn't mean immediate needs won't be addressed in the meantime, as our improving fiscal situation allows. This year should bring some essential repair and restoration work on our infrastructure, to include things like:

- Replacing our fifteen-year-old plow truck, so we can feel a little more confident about dealing reliably with significant snow events and other storms.
- Reinforcing our forest management program with professional consultation and activity in tree health maintenance, replanting and sustainment.
- Modest road repair work to treat functional deficiencies.
- Stonework and masonry to restore and repair our signature entrance columns.
- Electrical and/or gas supply and fixtures to restore entrance and park lighting.
- Repairs to City Hall that may include exterior painting, window replacements, and/or replacing HV/AC, as resources permit.

Later in this newsletter you'll find a separate article on the waste management program that needs your attention. Looking forward to your feedback on essential directions for this program. We're aiming to complete a new contract next spring that will take effect in July, when the current one expires, so it's time for this community conversation to get under way. Please weigh in!

The next General Assembly session is already taking shape too, with a number of small-city as well as general-interest items likely to need scrutiny: land use regulation, tax credits, historic preservation, annexation, tax reform, and others. If you know of other issues we should be following, please let City Hall know.

Audubon Park is such a special place – and with your continued dedication and support, it gets more special all the time. Thanks for being here!

ROADS AND FACILITIES

Brad Derrick

Contact: engineer@audubonparkky.org.

Street Repair Contract

Pavement assessment and development of a simple unit price contract are current top priority. I expect to have assessment complete and to review repair prioritization at the October City Council meeting. Receiving quotes by the October Council meeting is a goal, but may be difficult in the time available.

Current expectations for the project:

A request for proposal (RFP) for pavement repairs will be distributed to last year's respondents, and any other candidates identified, including unit prices at approximate, but not guaranteed quantities.

The project will be limited to the cash balance of our road fund, currently about \$33,000.

Pavement repairs should be able to be completed before winter sets in.

Long term, this level of funding (\$30,000-\$50,000/yr) may not be sufficient to maintain even the current state of repair. Future reports will address long term planning & funding.

Entrance Restoration

The goal of this project is to repair damage to the stone/cement entrances and restore working lights.

I will assess the condition of the existing entrances; both stone & cement work is expected. Expected course of action will be to get inclusive scope of work and lump sum quotes from several licensed electricians and several masons for stone/concrete repairs.

Key project elements include:

- 1- Stabilize the existing structures to stop further deterioration, return façades to previous appearance.
- 2- Provide working lights atop columns at Preston and Hess entrances.
- 3- Make accommodations, if feasible, for future gas lamps during current repairs.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Betty Weise

EAB Update

The Emerald Ash Borer continues to wreak havoc on all species of Ash trees. Any untreated Ash will eventually succumb to this pest. Females lay eggs in bark crevices, and they hatch after approximately 10 days. The larvae then tunnel into live tissue beneath the bark, continue to feed throughout the fall, finally emerging as adults the following spring.

The easements in Audubon Park still contain nearly 180 Ashes, mostly untreated. Many are mature and in decline from other causes; for healthier specimens, some residents have chosen the treatment option. The result for the rest will be a net loss to the canopy along Audubon Park's roadways. The Forest Board is currently treating 15 Ashes in our five urban parks. Cost to the City averages \$300/tree biennially.

Foresters now understand the dangers of planting too many trees of a single genus. When a pest or disease attacks one tree, all become susceptible. The Board is attempting to renew our easement canopy by selecting disease-resistant, mostly native trees as replacements for declining Ashes. For a minimal donation, we provide a mutually agreed-on young tree, plant and maintain it for 3-5 years.

Priorities For This Fiscal Year

The Forest Board is most visible when knocking on doors and planting trees along easements and within the parks. But the majority of our efforts take place behind the scene. We are responsible for all structural pruning to maintain/revitalize all young trees. When these tasks get too large for us to handle, they are carried out by professional arborists, and paid for by the City.

The Board does an annual parks walk-through in late summer/early fall. Within the resulting list of priorities, a number of trees are identified as "hazardous" to the public and in need of removal; others are in need of immediate dead-limb trimming. Professional arborists are consulted for verification, and the list is further prioritized. Work is then scheduled, again funded by the City.

Please visit any Board meeting for further information or to make comments. We meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month (except December) 6:30pm at City Hall.



**EMERALD
ASH BORER**

IS IN LOUISVILLE
CALL THE EXPERT ARBORISTS AT LIMBWALKER
TO PROTECT YOUR TREES

 For more information, call
502.634.0400
limbwalkertree.com
Fully Insured
Locally Owned
Certified Arborists

HELP WANTED!

There are always needs for dedicated citizens to apply their talents to help achieve community goals. The last two years have seen an outpouring of energy and enthusiasm that have sustained the City, and given real momentum to new ideas and initiatives.

But people do rotate out as things change, and new faces are essential. There are present vacancies for:

- Ethics Board member
- Code Enforcement Board member
- Code Enforcement Board alternate member

Please consult the City Web site for information on the boards, or inquire at City Hall. We need your help!

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AUDUBON PARK GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Joanne Bader

Fall Brightside Cleanup on Saturday, October 24th

Brightside's Community-Wide Fall Cleanup will be held Saturday, October 24th! Volunteers are needed at the Preston entrance to Audubon Park around 9 am. T-shirts and garden gloves are provided for volunteers. Feel free to bring extra rakes, brooms, or other gardening tools to help in the project. Garden Club member Cathy Lally coordinates the event, and can be reached at 773-0780 for more information. Come out, bring a friend, and help enhance the natural beauty of Audubon Park by cleaning up along Preston Highway!

Community Christmas Celebration – Mark your Calendars for December 13th!

The annual Christmas Community Celebration is scheduled for Sunday, December 13th at City Hall between 6 – 8 pm. More information will be distributed to residents prior to the event; the holiday celebrations may be larger 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!

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, Gene Stotz, at 634-4921 for more information. A full listing of Garden Club Programs for the upcoming year can also be found on the City's Web site: www.audubonparkky.org. Look for the Garden Club heading under the Community tab.

Monday, September 14, 2015: "Succulents and Sedums" with guest speaker Jeff Wallitsch of Wallitsch Nursery and Garden Center.

Tuesday, October 13, 2015: "Turned Woods of Audubon Park" with guest speaker and Garden Club

member Dr. Peter Tanguay. This meeting is the Fall Dinner, held at Audubon Country Club, 3265 Robin Rd. at 5:45 p.m. Reservations are required and there is a cost for dinner. Call Cheryl Westbay at 634-1239 or Ann Dyer at 634-3058 for reservations or more information.

Monday, November 9, 2015: "Flower Pot Men" with guest speaker Emylene Paguio.

Monday, January 11, 2016: "Hellebores" with guest speaker Anne Cartwright, Hostas of Kentuckiana.

Monday, February 8, 2016: "Native Trees and Shrubs" 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 14, 2016: "Pollinators and the Million Garden Challenge" with guest speaker and Garden Club Member Gene Stotz.

Monday, April 11, 2016: "Earth Boxes – A New Way to Garden" with guest speaker and Garden Club member Grace Worful.

Thanks to Volunteers Maintaining Public Gardens

All residents owe a debt of gratitude to a small group of residents who have taken responsibility for cleaning and planting of the public flower beds located throughout the park. Most are Garden Club or Forest Board members who have additional responsibilities within Audubon Park but are willing to spend time producing the beautiful flower displays at Robin, the flagpole at Oriole and at the five-way stop at Audubon/Cross Bill/Chickadee. These same folks (Mike and Cathy Lally, Anne Bobigian, and Betty Weise) also clean out spent debris later in the year. Thanks for all of your hard work beautifying our city!

Garden Gloves for Sale

The Garden Club is selling great quality garden gloves for only \$6/pair. The gloves are available in small, medium, large or extra large sizes and are made of spandex/latex. If you are interested in purchasing gloves, please call Gene Stotz at 634-4921.

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PARKS & RECREATION

Amy Shelton

Summer brought several opportunities for neighbors to celebrate and gather. The Fourth of July Parade was a fun morning with lots of participation from kids with decorated bikes, strollers, wheelchairs and wagons. The Camp Taylor Fire Department led us in a parade through the neighborhood, and we enjoyed fellowship around grilled hot dogs and sweet treats.

The neighbors of Audubon Park organized another outstanding August Block Party, with hundreds in attendance. The party was full of every element of summer fun: great music, children's laughter in the bouncy houses, delicious barbecue and great people. We appreciate our hosts, the Dove Road neighbors, for creating this new tradition and inspiring us to bring our neighbors together to build community.

To celebrate the changing of seasons and the spectacular show of fall color in Audubon Park in October, we will inaugurate a new fall festival this year. Audubon Auktoberfest will take place in Oriole Park on Saturday, October 10 from 4-8pm, and feature live Bluegrass music by The Potluck Ramblers, children's activities, a craft beer garden and food vendors. Be sure to mark your calendar and watch the Audubon Park Web site and Facebook Pages for more details.

We will need volunteers to make this community festival a success. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Amy Shelton at amyshelton@gmail.com.

WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

We've reached the last year of our three-year solid waste collection contract. Before inviting bids for the next round, we need to talk about what services you really want, and what you're willing to pay for them.

Right now our collections are on Tuesdays and Fridays. Garbage is collected from backyard cans on both days; recycling from the curb on Tuesday; and yard waste from the curb on Friday.

The annual waste management fee paid with your tax bill is \$303 right now, or \$25.25 per month. \$23.61

of that pays for the contract services listed; the remaining \$1.64 goes into a reserve fund for storm damage recovery and repair, based on the average storm damage costs over the last ten years.

The services broken out in the contract include \$18 for the two back-door garbage pickups; \$2.55 for recycling; and \$3.06 for yard waste. In the bid for this contract, the vendor indicated that the added cost of the second weekly garbage pickup was \$6.50 – a single weekly back-door pickup would be \$11.50.

There was no information sought in that bid on the relative cost of garbage pickup at the curb, rather than the back. We'll certainly get that this time – just looking at the relative cost of recycling and yard waste at the curb (\$2½ or \$3, versus \$11½), the difference should be large.

Comments at regular Council and town hall meetings, as well as social media dialogue and Web feedback, have included many calls for reducing garbage pickups and/or moving them to the curb; increasing container size and/or frequency of recycling; fixing the pickup day for services where that matters, like yard waste after the weekend; and considering other services that may be especially valuable to our neighborhood, like seasonal curbside leaf collection.

Fairness in the billing scheme is an ongoing issue as well. Up to now, the annual fee has been the same for every dwelling – house, multiplex, condo, apartment, and the few businesses along Preston. We could set proportional rates for the different dwellings – but of course there can still be big differences in service needs within each category. Another suggestion has been to go to a franchise system where customers could select their own services, à la carte. But such a complicated system would add administrative costs yet to be determined.

In trying to arrive at a better and more economical solution for the future, the most important elements are your ideas and preferences. Let City Hall hear from you through one or more of the communications channels now in use. Then, look for a survey this fall aiming to lay out the options and costs as they can be determined, and do your part to help give a clear picture of what the community wants and needs.

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HELLO - WHO'S THERE?

Audubon Park continues to attract talented people to replace the inevitable turnover that occurs. Here are the latest you should meet:



Jeff Schmitt
Police Officer

Jeff Schmitt is 45 years old, and was born in Louisville, KY. He graduated from Seneca High School in 1987. He attended the University of Louisville for two years, at which time he began his career in Law

Enforcement with the Louisville Division of Police. Jeff Schmitt loved being a patrol officer and spent his whole career in patrol where he worked at multiple patrol divisions. He retired from the Louisville Metro Police Department at the end of August.

Jeff also grew up in Audubon Park and lived on Audubon Parkway and Oriole Drive; both his grandparents lived in the City as well. He is married and has a little boy and girl.



Jeff Lee
Police Officer

Jeff Lee grew up in Brooks, Kentucky. He graduated from Bullitt Central High school, and then enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in May of 1988. He was trained as a Military Police Officer at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas in

1989. Jeff served the next 7 years in the Marine Corps Reserve. Jeff and his unit were activated for Operation Desert Shield/Storm from November 1990 until May of 1991. Jeff was hired at the Jefferson County Corrections Department in October of 1991 and was promoted to Sergeant in 1994. Jeff was hired by the Jefferson County Police Department on November 1st, 1999. Jeff has worked as a patrolman in the County Police's Charlie and Baker districts. He was made detective in Baker District's Flex unit in 2003, then was assigned to the LMPD Narcotics division in May of 2005. Jeff was also a member of LMPD's Dive team and their Clandestine Lab team. Jeff is a certified expert in narcotics and clandestine labs in Jefferson County Circuit Court. Jeff is married and has two sons.



Barry Denton
Reserve Police Officer

Barry Denton started his law enforcement career in 1989 as a police cadet with the Jefferson County Police Department, and retired as a sergeant from the Louisville Metro Police Department in December, 2012. In his twenty-

three years of service, he patrolled in five of the eight police divisions, worked as the Public Information Officer and served as a Domestic Violence detective. As a Sergeant, Barry was the Assistant Commander of the Community Relations Unit, Commander of the Recruitment and Selection Unit, a Traffic Sergeant within the Traffic Unit and commanded the Bomb Squad. He also served on the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Bomb Task Force. He holds three medals of valor, three exceptional merit awards and four meritorious unit citations.

Barry holds a BS degree from the University of Louisville in Justice Administration, a Master's Degree in Emergency Management and Homeland Security from the American Military Institute, a Master's Degree in Police Administration from the University of Louisville (pending doctoral dissertation defense this fall) and will earn his doctorate in Organizational Leadership in December from Spalding University. He also graduated with honors from the Southern Police Institute Administrative Officers' Course in transformational leadership. Currently, Barry is the Executive Director of the Louisville Metro Police Foundation. He has been married to his wife Julie for 15 years and they have two daughters.

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 below.

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- **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 Community/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, 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 – 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?

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 A.M. and 6 A.M. 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. 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.

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 (with occasional exceptions for holidays). 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.