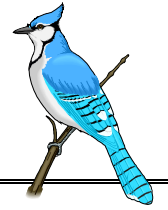


The Official Newsletter of The City of Audubon Park



Michael P. Scalise, Mayor
Jeffrey Cox, Chief of Police
Stephanie Lee, City Clerk

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City Council:

Judith Schwenker
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Gary Vogel

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MAYOR SCALISE'S MESSAGE

We are pleased to announce that MSD's work at Audubon Parkway and Oriole Drive has been completed, and City employees reinstalled the flagpole to its rightful place. The flag's electric floodlight had been damaged in an accident, and that has also been repaired. The driver's auto insurance will pay for the repairs to the light.

After the recent hailstorm and the "hail" of contractor signs, you've probably noticed that City employees have been taking the signs. We take the signs because, per our ordinance, it is unlawful to erect or display any advertising or business sign within the City except "for sale" and "for rent signs," "yard sale signs," and "business signs" attached to a business on Preston Highway. If a contractor wants his or her sign back, we have them stored in the garage at City hall; and we will gladly return them.

Did You Know...

Many residents have asked about the requirements for permits needed for building or renovation projects. This edition of "Did You Know" will focus on those issues as well as common questions that have come up regarding animal ownership and control.

Building and Housing Permits:

- Permits are commonly required from both Audubon Park and Louisville Metro when load-bearing walls are added or changed; the addition or removal of a deck or porch; or the addition of permanent, in-ground swimming pools, above ground hot tubs, whirlpools or spas. Applications for such permits

(and specific information regarding permits) can be picked up at City Hall or downloaded from the City's website at www.audubonparkky.org. There is a \$50 fee for such permits (excluding fences).

Building or remodeling of exteriors to homes or other dwellings cannot be started until plans are approved and permits are issued.

- Construction of a new garage or enlarging of a current garage also requires a permit. Garages are to be one story in height and not to exceed 1200 sq. ft. Concrete block garages are prohibited unless the exterior has a brick, stone, or compatible siding veneer applied over the concrete block.
- Homeowners may apply for a variance to the building requirements after being denied for the permit by

requesting a variance hearing. A letter requesting the variance must be submitted one month before a hearing date is set, and the request for variance will be heard and voted upon by the City Council (this is a minimum 60 day process).

- No permit is needed for driveway resurfacing or change (blacktop to concrete, etc.) as long as the width of the driveway remains unchanged. If a homeowner wishes to widen

"Provided as a service to our neighbors"

a driveway, permission may be needed from the City of Audubon Park if it encroaches on the easement which is controlled by the City.

- Permits are required to install or replace a fence; however, they are not needed for fence repair (replacement of boards, etc.). If a fence is removed or replaced, a permit is required; and homeowners are required to follow the new guidelines (cannot exceed 48 inches in height and privacy fences shall be constructed with the finished side facing the adjacent property). New fences may not be erected on any front or side yard of any lot within the City.
- Swimming pools must be enclosed by a fence measuring at least 42 inches in height, but they cannot exceed 48 inches. Exterior hot tubs are limited to water capacity of 400 gallons.
- Building permits must be posted in an easily visible location while construction is taking place.

Animal Control Ordinances:

- Residents are not allowed to keep the following types of animals within city limits: chickens, ducks, geese, pigeons or other fowl, goats, horses, ponies, or other like animals.
- Boarding, breeding, buying, or showing of animals is prohibited.
- Any collection of animals exceeding four (4) at any one time is considered a business venture and is not permitted.

- Animals/pets are required to be under absolute physical control by the animal's owner or agent at all times or on a leash.
- Enclosures or pens for the housing of pets should be constructed so that animals cannot stray from them.
- All pets must be vaccinated and/or licensed.
- Complaints about animals such as strays, biting by animals, no collar or license, barking dogs, or cats running loose without a bell, lack of shelter, food or water, or unhealthy living conditions should be made to Metro Animal Services at 363-6609 between the hours of 7 A.M. and 11 P.M. when Animal Control Officers are on duty.
- Failure to comply with City ordinances related to pets can render homeowners liable to citation.

Please remember to pick up after your animal if it defecates on private property.

AUDUBON PARK GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Joanne Bader

10th Annual Garden Tour

The 10th annual Audubon Park Garden Tour will be held on Saturday, June 23rd, from 10 A.M. until 4 P.M. Approximately six to eight local gardens will be showcased on the Tour including the rain garden in Curlew Park; however, more specific information was unavailable at the time of this publication. Tickets for the event can be purchased at City Hall for \$10 and refreshments and maps to the featured gardens will be available. All gardens on the Tour will be identified by a colorful, flower-filled watering can at the curb. Proceeds from the Garden Tour will benefit the Tree

Restoration Fund (which provides funding for tree maintenance and canopy replacement within Audubon Park). Hopefully, the weather will be wonderful again this year for the Tour; and we hope you invite family and friends to join you in touring the hidden beauty of Audubon Park's gardens.

Festival of the Dogwood

There are many opinions on whether global warming is real or not; however, this spring's early and HOT weather should certainly give tangible credence to the theory. It certainly wreaked havoc on the Festival of the Dogwood this past April. The Festival has been held for over 40 years and is scheduled for the third weekend in April (traditionally the week that best approximates when the Dogwoods are in full bloom). The Garden Club has previously sought advice from horticultural sources such as Yew Dell Gardens and the County Extension Office (associated with the University of Kentucky) to determine the optimal timeframe for the Festival. Both organizations confirmed the middle of April is typical for blooming in our region. Over the last 40 years, the Festival schedule has resulted in Dogwood blooms for the Festival nearly 90% of the time; but, this year was an aberration with summer-like heat beginning in February. This resulted in the Dogwoods and other flowering trees and plants (such as Azaleas) blooming a month ahead of schedule.

Questions were raised by several residents as to why the Festival wasn't rescheduled to showcase the earlier blooms this year. What residents may not realize is that planning for the Festival begins months in advance with contracting/scheduling (in November) of the band for the free Sunday concert, printing of flyers, etc. (at least 6 weeks in advance), and notice is also sent to the paper to alert the Louisville area about the Festival. We are fortunate in that Charlie White at the *Courier Journal* is a strong supporter of Audubon Park and its events, and he did write articles about the Dogwoods blooming early. Many residents were wonderful in lighting up their Dogwoods or other blooming plants in March; and that is when the City received most of its visitors who, no doubt, saw Dogwoods blooming in other parts of Louisville and came to view the trees in Audubon Park. But this year, the Garden Club was

unable to accommodate a change in schedule due to the unusual weather and its effects on our Dogwoods. If this earlier heat continues to trend over the next few years, the Dogwood Committee is open to consider changing the Festival's dates.

Due to declining attendance and the difficulty of booking high school bands, the Garden Club discontinued its Friday night Opening Ceremony; instead, local dignitaries and Club members used the free concert program on Sunday to conduct the annual commemoration of Arbor Day (which the City must mark to continue its designation as a Tree City USA site). The Garden Club would like to thank State Representative Jim Wayne, Mayor Mike Scalise and Councilman Al Huber for their participation in this celebration. Over 100 guests enjoyed fellowship, refreshments, and the music provided by the River Cities Concert Band at Audubon Baptist Church on Hess Lane. The Garden Club gratefully recognizes Dr. Dan Hatfield, pastor of Audubon Baptist Church, for allowing us to use his church for the concert. Thanks are also extended to City officials, staff, and Police for their assistance and cooperation as well as to Diane Osborne and the members of the Dogwood Festival Committee who put in many volunteer hours to make the Festival a reality.

New this year, members of the Forest Board hosted a community Dogwood Planting Ceremony on Saturday as part of the continuing restoration of Henderson Park (which has suffered major damage from recent storms). Hopefully next year, temperatures will return to normal ranges allowing the Festival to showcase the lovely Dogwoods and other flowering plants in Audubon Park in mid-April.

Changes to Community Flower Beds

You may have noticed some changes to the many community flower beds scattered throughout Audubon Park. The Garden Club has taken over responsibility for planting and maintenance of these beds and is installing a variety of perennial and annual flowers to provide for more diversity in plantings and color. The Garden Club is providing the funding for the flowers. Special thanks are extended to several Garden Club members and residents including Betty Weise, Cathy and Mike Lally, Anne

Bobigian, and Gene Stotz who helped prepare and/or plant the flower beds. These individuals have spent many hours working on this project, and we will all enjoy the final effort!

Garden Tidbits:

- Garden Club programs go on hiatus during the summer months and will resume in September. The next edition of the Newsletter (delivered in September) will list upcoming programs with dates and times.
- The Garden Club has decided **not** to hold its annual Arts and Crafts Festival this September for a variety of reasons.
- Please make sure you water trees and plants appropriately during the hot and dry summer. It is better to water deeply once a week, than to do multiple light waterings to promote proper root growth. It is also better to water earlier in the day to prevent evaporation and to discourage development of mold or mildew (which can occur when plants are watered at night).

The Hydrangea

In past issues, we have highlighted local flowers and flowering plants that can be found in local gardens at specific times during the year. In this edition, we are focusing on the Hydrangea (a common garden plant that is typically found blooming during late spring until fall). The U.S. National Arboretum says there are 23 species of Hydrangea in the United States (though only 5 widely cultivated varieties). The most common variety, *Hydrangea macrophylla*, can be identified by several names such as the garden, bigleaf, French, or Florist Hydrangea and is hardy to Zone 6. Other cultivars are *Oakleaf* (which can be found at the park entrance on Preston Highway and is the only variety to develop significant red fall foliage); *Smooth* (found in the eastern half of the U.S. from Zones four - nine); *Panicle* (the most cold hardy); and *Climbing* which is a true clinging vine that can ultimately envelope the sides of buildings.

Hydrangeas can be found in a multitude of colors largely depending on the soil in which they are planted and/or variety of cultivar. Aluminum in the soil is necessary to produce the blue pigment (most garden soil has adequate amounts of this mineral). More acidic soils (pH 5.5 or lower) generally produce blue flowers while more neutral or alkaline soils (pH 7.0 or higher) generally produce pink flowers. Between pH 5.5 and 6.5, flowers can be purple or a mixture of pink and blue. To change the color of flowers on your bush, add lime to raise the pH or add aluminum sulfate or other acidic organic materials such as peat or pinebark to lower the pH.

Hydrangeas are best grown in moist, well-drained soil and benefit from shade if grown in the hotter growing regions. Panicle varieties tolerate sun the best; however, too much shade can negatively affect blooming as can improper pruning. The variety of Hydrangea dictates timing of pruning; the flower of bigleaf or oakleaf varieties should be pruned back shortly after flowering is complete. Other varieties may only bloom on previous year's growth; therefore, the best advice is to check with a local nursery based on your variety. Flowers can be cut and dried for year-round beauty if you wait to cut blooms off after they are almost completely dried out on the plant. They will then need to be hung upside down to complete the drying process.

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

- 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 Yard 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.
- Please report any street lights that are out or malfunctioning to City Hall at 637-5066. The information provided will then be forwarded on to LG&E for repair.

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- **With regards to pets, please keep in mind that your neighbors do NOT want your pets wandering in their yard or on the roadway in front of their houses leaving unpleasant surprises or attacking the pets they may have. Please pick up after your pets and make sure they are under control at all times and are not running around loose. We have also received complaints at City Hall of barking dogs and of cats on the prowl. Please try to keep your pets from disturbing your neighbors or the bird population in the area.**

If your garbage is missed, please contact Waste Management at 966-0117.

- In keeping with the beauty of the neighborhood, please try to avoid having yard signs placed on your property. Please keep in mind that if a yard sign is placed on the easement or if it is not a sale/rent sign, it will be removed by the City.
- Please discourage children and others from climbing in trees in the various City parks due to safety issues and damage possibilities.
- In relation to garbage collection, the collection days in the City are Tuesdays and Fridays. The yard waste and recycling are on Tuesdays only and are to be placed at the curb. **Please keep in mind yard waste must be bundled and not to exceed 48 inches in length (logs will not be accepted). These requirements also remain the same when there is debris from storms, etc.; and the City does not have a drop site for storm debris.** Household garbage is collected at the rear of the house. Yard waste and recycling should **NOT** be placed at the street earlier than the evening before collection. We have had several complaints of residents leaving garbage containers out at the street. Please make sure containers are stored in their proper place near your home. If you have had problems with containers not being placed back where they came from, please contact Waste Management.

Please see the following holiday schedule:

For July 4th week, Friday pickup will be moved to Saturday. For Labor Day (September 3, 2012), all collections will be one day later for that week.