



The Official Newsletter of The City of Audubon Park



Michael P. Scalise, Mayor
Jeffrey Cox, Chief of Police
Janette Mercer, City Clerk

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Message from the Mayor

Mike Scalise

Budget, Sanitation, ReachAlert

This year's budget cycle has been tumultuous, as many of you are probably aware. However, the council finally passed a budget on September 4th and it has required the city to make many changes in personnel. The City Clerk's position was cut from a full-time to a part-time position; as a result, Stephanie Lee, our City Clerk for the last 10 years, has left the job. She was initially replaced on an interim basis by Robin Shouse, who has done a phenomenal job, but she was not interested in a permanent position. Starting on Monday, Sept. 23rd, Janette Mercer will become the permanent City Clerk. She will be working 30 hours a week, from 8am – noon and 1 pm – 4:30 pm Monday through Thursday; City Hall will be closed on Fridays. Please welcome her and give her your consideration as she learns the job. While cuts were made to the City's Police Department, I would like to reassure you that Audubon Park still maintains 24/7 coverage to protect its residents.

As mentioned above, the budget was passed and we created a new sanitation account which has set aside funds to return a portion of the amount you were overcharged for your sanitation fees this fiscal year. A letter about this was sent to all residents in August. This will be accomplished by providing a credit on next year's property tax/sanitation fee bills. For example, if the regular fee for providing sanitation coverage is \$280/household for the year, you will

receive a significantly lower bill because of the credit from this year's overcharge.

Earlier this year, Audubon Park contracted with **ReachAlert** to provide a notification system to the residents in case of emergencies, security issues or just reminders of upcoming city social functions. I would like to encourage you to sign up for this *free* service since we continually hear that residents want a way for the city to notify people of what is going on. Once you are signed up, which is easy and takes only a minute or two, the system will send you notifications via your choice of text, email or even voice mail – it is that easy! There is no cost to you and the city is being mindful not to overwhelm you with too many messages...You can learn more about the program at www.reachalert.com. Also anyone in your household may sign up for this free service. This is a pilot program this year to determine whether or not ReachAlert meets the needs that residents have asked for; so if we do not get enough residents to sign up for this service, we will likely discontinue it. So vote with your fingers and tell your friends and neighbors!

The newsletter you are reading is one of four that we produce each year. All are downloaded to Audubon Park's website which is www.audubonparkky.org, but the current Fall (Sept) issue and the Spring issue (March) are also printed and hand-delivered to your home. The Summer (June) and Winter (December) issues are only available on the city's website, although we will have a limited number of copies available at City Hall for those unable to use the website.

"Provided as a service to our neighbors"

On a happier note, I would like to remind you that members of the Audubon Park Police Department will be out patrolling (and handing out candy!) to neighborhood kids on Halloween!

Forest Board

Anne Bobigian, Betty Weise

Support restoration of our shade trees. Invest in our own backyard!

You may have noticed the on-going efforts to re-establish shade trees on the streets and in the parks by the Forest Board. The replanting effort is based on careful analysis of our tree inventory and our experience in planting and maintaining "Legacy Trees" – trees that will be here 60-100 years from now. Plantings since 2008 have been funded through the Garden Club and generous donations from individual homeowners in Audubon Park. The Garden Club has a long-standing fund devoted exclusively to tree replacement and restoration.

We are about to be challenged in an entirely new way as we lose over 150 mature ash trees in the next three years on the easements, and even more in front yards. This will remove about 20-25% of our shade trees. The culprit is a tiny insect called the Emerald Ash Borer, and we can see its impact already in ashes that are starting to die. A plan has been developed to meet this challenge, but is unfunded. Please consider making a donation to the Garden Club to help us get started on removals and replacements.

Our goal is \$10,000! That would enable us to implement the first step in removing doomed ash trees before they become dangerous and will start the replanting effort. The shade from your neighbor's ash matters to you; replanting a durable long-lived shade tree with proper care to replace that ash will keep the character and charm and environmental value of our beautiful city. If you love our majestic canopy, make a special effort and dig deep!

You may make a tax-deductible donation for this effort through the Audubon Park Garden Club. Send checks payable to: Audubon Park Garden Club with "Tree Restoration Fund" marked in the notation line. Mail or drop off your donation to Janet Shumate, 1218 Falcon Drive, Louisville KY 40213 and she will provide you with a letter acknowledging your tax-deductible donation. If your employer matches charitable contributions, please contact Janet at 636-0111 to discuss how to coordinate this. Every little bit helps!

Easement plantings make progress

Easement tree plantings for the 2013 growing season have been concentrated along the six side streets between Audubon Parkway and Hess Lane and from Chickadee east to Eagle Pass. Of the Forest Board's initial goal of 20 trees, 19 have been planted. Two additional homeowners, inspired by these recent plantings, will also receive easement trees this Fall.

Dogwood trees in Henderson Park, site of the annual Festival of the Dogwood, have been rejuvenated, or removed and replanted. At this point, work is nearly complete. Twelve other ornamental trees, as well as eight canopy trees selected for climate suitability and diversity, have been planted throughout our five City Parks.

Currently the Forest Board is generating a list of homeowners that will receive easement trees this Fall. If you are interested in being added to our list or have any questions, please call Betty Weise at 637-3032 or visit the Forest Board at www.treecommittee-apgc.org.

Audubon Park Garden Club News

Joanne Bader

12th Annual Garden Tour Benefits Audubon Park

The Garden Club hosted its 12th Annual Garden Tour on Saturday, June 22nd from 10 am – 4 pm on a

beautiful afternoon – dry and not too hot! Ten gardens were featured on the tour, showcasing a variety of gardening styles – rain gardens, shade gardens, formal and informal gardens, those attracting birds and butterflies, and even an organic “edible” garden.

The Garden Club would like to thank the “host” families that spent so much time preparing their gardens for the tour and also for generously sharing their gardening knowledge with tour participants. Special thanks go to Kathy and Rob Mullen, Linda and Richard Meffert, Anita and Neal Garrison, Courtney and Rob Turner, Stephanie and Mike Kuntz, Mary H. and Mary Birch Miller, Dodie and Gary Smith, Eric and Pamela Johansen, and Jan and Al Huber. Several members of the Garden Club also helped host the homes on the tour, provided refreshments and provided plants sold to the public.

Over 100 visitors and residents toured the gardens in Audubon Park and the event raised approximately \$1,300. Proceeds from the annual event benefit Garden Club programs including community flower beds, trees, parks maintenance, and city-wide events like the Festival of the Dogwood and the Community Christmas Celebration.

Call for Volunteers – Help with Brightside Planting Along Preston – October 11th

Brightside, in conjunction with Council Member Jim King’s office, is looking for volunteers to help beautify the area on Preston Street just south of the railroad overpass (near the carpet store) on Friday, October 11, 2013 at 10 a.m. Brightside will bring the flowers and know-how, but they would love to have help! Call Jim King’s office at 574-1189 if you have any questions about this project.

Brightside – April Event a Huge Success and New Cleanup Scheduled in October

The Garden Club helped to sponsor a neighborhood cleanup along Preston Highway in conjunction with Brightside on Saturday, April 13th. Glorious weather

(for once!) helped spur a record number of participants, nearly 20, to come out early to weed/rake/pick up trash for nearly 2 hours along one of Audubon Park’s main entrances. We even had several younger volunteers from Oldham County who came in to lend a hand. Over 30 bags of trash were collected - also a record! Many thanks to Garden Club President Gene Stotz for coordinating the event and to all the residents, council members and “guest volunteers” who helped to make the event a huge success!

BUT, another Brightside cleanup is planned for Saturday, October 26th from 9 am - ?

, this time coordinated by Garden Club member Cathy Lally. The cleanup will again focus on the area around the Preston Street entrance to Audubon Park; gloves and trash bags will be provided as well as t-shirts for volunteers. However, it would be helpful if anyone can bring rakes or brooms to help with the work. This area, located near a TARC stop, always needs help to keep trash contained and weeds pulled. Please come join your friends and neighbors and help make a difference in keeping Audubon Park beautiful! And if any students need service hours and want to volunteer, Cathy will be happy to have your help! If questions, call Cathy at 634-9646.

Christmas Community Celebration – December 15th

Mark your calendars for Audubon Park’s Annual Christmas Community Celebration which will be held on Sunday, December 15th at City Hall – a little later in the month than usually scheduled. Last year’s celebration was a huge success; wonderful holiday refreshments were served in a festive atmosphere that allowed neighbors to meet and greet the beginning of the holiday season. Preliminary details note that the event will be held from 6-8 pm and the committee again promises door prizes to be drawn throughout the evening and monetary prizes drawn at 8 pm. A flyer will be distributed in late November or early December with more information. The Garden Club is again encouraging all residents to decorate their homes with holiday decorations; we

also hope that all streets will likewise decorate their lamp posts to usher in the holiday season in the park.

Festival of the Dogwood

Unlike last year, the dogwoods were *mostly* in bloom for this year's festival! This spring's cooler weather delayed the full bloom of the dogwood trees for the scheduled weekend of the Festival, but there were still many lovely trees and other flowering shrubs for a visual treat for residents and the many visitors who drive through Audubon Park at this time of year. According to Diane Osborne, Chair of the Festival of the Dogwood Committee, this year saw one of the best attendances for festival events. Wet weather prevented an unofficial ceremony to light the trees in Wren Park on Friday evening, but approximately 125 residents and their guests attended the free concert held at Audubon Baptist Church on Sunday afternoon which presented a variety of folk, patriotic and show tunes by the River Cities Concert Band. The festival was graced by the appearance of local politicians such as Jim King and Jim Wayne who spoke about the importance of community support and fellowship. Jim King even likened Audubon Park to "little Mayberry" because of the wonderful quality of life and neighborliness found here. The Garden Club would like to thank Dr. Dan Hatfield, pastor of the church, for his invocation and use of the church for the event; the Mayor and members of City Council who supported the event and helped to honor Arbor Day (which is a necessary function to maintain our designation as a Tree City USA city) and all residents who lit up their trees and plantings during the festival. As always, the Festival of the Dogwood Committee did a great job...

Many residents may not know that the festival began in 1971 or that the widespread planting of dogwoods in Audubon Park began about fifty years earlier during WWII, when many were planted in honor of family members serving in the Armed Forces. The idea for the festival, focusing spotlights on the trees, was proposed by Marjorie Davis, a long-time resident of the park who was President of the Garden Club at the time.

The Garden Club hopes that we can encourage more residents to light up their trees, homes or other flowering plants or shrubs next year – and remember, don't wait till the last minute to purchase spotlights as these are often sold out just prior to the festival, held traditionally during the third week of April!

Upcoming Garden Club Programs

After its summer hiatus, 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). Due to the slightly delayed distribution of the fall newsletter, the first program of the 2013-2014 year, on "Birds, Birding and John James Audubon" has already occurred. Kathy Dennis, President of the Beckham Bird Club gave a wonderful lecture on the country's pre-eminent bird illustrator. However upcoming programs also promise interesting topics and speakers:

Thursday, October 10, 2013: "*The Quest for a Botanical Garden*" with guest speaker Brian Voelker, President of Botanica and the Waterfront Botanical Garden. This program is the annual fall dinner held at Audubon Country Club, 3265 Robin Road at 6:00 pm. Reservations are required and can be made by calling Cheryl Westbay at 634-1239. There is a fee for the dinner. Reservations should be made by Sunday, October 6th.

Monday, November 11, 2013: "*Gardens in the Sky: Bernheim's Green Roof*" with guest speaker Renee Hutchison, Nursery Manager at Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest.

Monday, January 13, 2014: "*Ornamental Grasses*" with guest speaker Suzette Whyte, owner of Nature by Design and a Kentucky Certified Nurseryman.

Monday, February 10, 2014: "*Camellias*" with guest speaker Jacquelyn McGrail, a Master Gardener, Landscape Design Consultant, and Past President of The Rambler Garden Club. This program is held

during the annual winter pot-luck luncheon to be held at Audubon Baptist Church, 1046 Hess Lane at 11:00 am. There is no charge to attend the luncheon but reservations should be made by calling Cheryl Westbay at 634-1239.

Monday, March 10, 2014: "*Tips on the Care of Hydrangeas and Crepe Myrtles*" with guest speaker Jeff Wallitsch of Wallitsch Nursery and Garden Center.

Tuesday, April 15, 2014: "*Experience Riverside, The Farnsley-Moreman Landing*". This will be a field trip, with carpooling from Audubon Park City Hall, 3340 Robin Road, at 12 p.m. There is an admission of \$4 to enter this site.

Tuesday, May 13, 2014: "*Healthy Soil Makes Great Gardens and Trees*" with guest speaker Gary Murphy, Certified Arborist with Limbwalkers Tree Service. This program, held at City Hall, begins at 11:45 am.

Remember – membership is no longer restricted to Audubon Park residents only....If you know of someone interested in joining the Garden Club, please have them contact Club President, Gene Stotz, at 634-4921 for more information.

Coffee Grounds Available at Panera

Panera, on Poplar Level Road, provides free bags of coffee grounds to those who request them as part of their efforts to honor Earth Day (in April). They have also agreed to provide them during the rest of the year to anyone here in Audubon Park, as long as you give them a call a few days in advance (their number is 635-9164).

Evidently coffee grounds have several beneficial uses. While many may assume the grounds are acidic in nature, they are actually slightly acidic to slightly alkaline, thus providing a relatively neutral additive. Among their uses:

- Use as a mulch, although some sources suggest adding a pinch of lime to ensure that pH levels are adequately balanced
- Grounds are high in nitrogen, approximately 10%
- Are good as side dressing for leafy greens like lettuces, spinach etc or for "fruity" vegetables like tomatoes or squash early in their growth
- Are good deterrents for slugs and snails which seem to dislike the jagged edges of the grounds
- Appear to suppress fungal diseases
- Good addition to compost piles, helping to speed up decomposition. Worms also love coffee grounds!
- Can be used as a liquid feeder for plants if a handful of grounds are placed in a bucket of water and left to sit for a few days to turn to an amber liquid before feeding plants

No doubt they have many other uses – these were some that turned up on an internet search for uses of coffee grounds in gardening.

The Rose

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 rose – a perennial summertime favorite! Rather than focusing on the care and selection of roses which is far too complex for this venue, we are focusing on the historical context of the flower over time. With the botanical name *Rosa* and family name *Rosaceae*, the rose has typically represented love although the name is actually derived from the Latin for its color "Rosa" which means red. Long associated with love and passion by the Greeks and Romans, the rose has also been linked to Christian religion in connection with the Virgin Mary, with the crown of thorns and Christ's blood.

Few roses were found in the West before the 16th century. In Europe, the Apothecary Rose was used for medicinal purposes ranging from treating

barrenness to cleansing maladies of the brain. Other varieties were used to make rosewater (likely necessary as bathing was optional then...) or to cure the bite of a mad dog. Others may recall that during the War of the Roses, certain roses represented noble houses/families in England.

Roses from China first came to Europe at the end of the 1700s. Many roses of that era only bloomed twice a year, however the advent of the roses from China introduced varieties that bloomed continually, including those known as Tea Roses that were tender plants not usually grown outside. When these roses were crossed with varieties that were Hybrid Perpetuals, they became the standard for most modern roses.

The Chinese named Roses for poetic concepts, while French roses were often named after famous people of the period, especially during Napoleonic times when Empress Josephine was famous for her fabulous rose garden. It has been said that Josephine always carried a rose with her so she could hide her bad teeth behind its blooms when she laughed. Reportedly, she also allowed ships carrying roses to sail through battle lines by both the French and the British, if they were destined for her garden at Malmaison.

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. At this time of year, please be on the lookout for walkers and joggers and watch your speed.
- 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.

- **With regards to pets, your neighbors do NOT want your pets wandering in their yard or on the roadway in front of their houses leaving unpleasant surprises. Please pick up after your pets and make sure they are under control at all times. Complaints have been received about barking dogs and loose cats; try to keep your pets from disturbing your neighbors and our bird population.**
- Please discourage children and others from climbing in trees in the various City parks due to safety issues and damage possibilities.
- The Forest Board meets at City Hall the second Wednesday of each month at 7 P.M. Various work days in each of the parks takes place monthly. If you are interested in helping out, please attend one of the meetings to find out further information.
- City Council Meetings are held the third Monday of each month at City Hall at 7:30 P.M. Everyone is encouraged and invited to attend.
- In relation to garbage collection, the collection days in the City are Tuesdays and Fridays. Yard waste is collected on Fridays, and recycling is on Tuesdays only. Yard waste and recycling items are to be placed at the curb. **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.** 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.

Please see the following holiday schedule:

For Thanksgiving Day, November 28th, Friday collection will be moved to Saturday. For Christmas Day, December 25th, all collections will be moved to one day later this week.

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