




The Official Newsletter of The City of Audubon Park



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MAYOR'S MUSINGS

Dorn Crawford

An excellent summer season has arrived once again! Hope everybody had a great spring, highlighted by a truly memorable extended Dogwood Festival, encompassing our signature tree-lighting and opening ceremony and celebration, Arbor Day activities, Easter egg hunt, and concluding band concert wrap-up event. Anchoring it all, of course, was the illumination of trees and homes throughout the City that makes the Festival a landmark for the entire metropolitan area. Shout-outs to all concerned, especially our tireless Parks & Rec Board, Forest Board, Garden Club, supporting City Council, staff and police force – and most of all, to you, our illuminated neighbors!

A few other developments while we were enjoying the festivities:

Taxes. Rates for all taxes and fees are unchanged for the coming year. We're still working to catch up with deferred maintenance and other shortfalls covered in our discussions at the Town Hall and related publications and meetings. But there was an increase in the City's total property value assessment this year, mostly due to increased prices for properties sold during the year, so the City will get some helpful added revenue from new purchasers. That made it seem like a good time for a pause on rates – so, most bills should be essentially the same as last year. Don't forget the due date for payment at face value is July 1st!

Budget. The fiscal year 2018 budget, which takes effect on July 1st, was adopted on June 19th, following

our Town Hall meeting of May 11th, and initial proposal and reading on May 15th. It's 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.

Among the happy challenges we're facing in the more favorable fiscal environment we enjoy now are

- Smoothly and properly rolling over surplus funds for use in the new year, that may come from several sources: revenues exceeding expectations; savings on expenses; or projects not completed for one reason or another, but which can be re-authorized with carryover funds after year-end reconciliations. The resulting "TBD" (to be determined) beginning balance lines in the budget can be filled in with supplemental appropriations once the final amounts are known.
- Accounting, displaying plainly, and controlling 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 fundraising, and, most recently, proceeds of community activities. There's been animated discussion over 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, as required by law.

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- Tracking 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.

The enacting budget ordinance, and detailed proposal, should be reaching you by mail (as required by law) about the same time as this newsletter. Together with that, you'll be getting a last-minute amendment to the current budget, involving just a transfer of unspent funds to cover an unexpected shortfall in police payroll. Unfortunate lapse of foresight. Lesson learned.

Waste Management. We're now a year into our new contract, with scarcely any concerns raised over the revised collection schedule, recycling gear, and sharing of small dumpsters at the larger apartments and condos. Individual pickup problems still sometimes occur, of course, and City Hall still works to help resolve those as they're reported. The new 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.

Fiber-Optic Cable Installation. The buzz about 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 lawsuit challenging Metro's ordinance on moving existing equipment on utility poles to accommodate new providers is still pending, and could well affect the schedule.

AT&T, as you may recall, installed fiber trunk lines in the western half of Audubon Park last year, for the same purpose, but has not extended the lines to individual houses, and hasn't disclosed its schedule for wiring the rest of the City.

In a related development, the Kentucky Supreme Court recently sustained a challenge to state government's central control and distribution of telecommunications franchise fees, in *Kentucky CATV Association Inc. v. City of Florence et al.* This

decision returns fee determination and collection to the cities, as part of their franchising authority. This may ultimately produce more revenue for the City – but in the short term may add another layer of complication to implementing these new services.

It's disappointing, if not surprising, that a service so desirable should encounter so many complications and uncertainties. You can be sure we'll be pressing to see it still delivered, uniformly or otherwise, with common sense and due regard to the City's interests.

Utilities. The broader theme from the above is a reminder of the City's commitment to improve information flow and accountability for all service providers. Current ordinances already require permits for any utility-related tree trimming, trenching or equipment installation. This is for the protection of all residents, to verify providers and subcontractors are certified, fully insured, and perform responsibly. It's also a way to let everybody know when and where work like this is expected, so they can plan for it and be informed about it.

As the City has reached out to the various providers, they've generally been receptive and cooperative, once informed. Our basic premise is that citizens of Audubon Park shouldn't have their lives or property disrupted without notice, and good cause. 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 information functions the City performs by law.

Traffic Enforcement. You've probably seen the temporary speed bumps added on Audubon Parkway at the five-way stop at Chickadee and Crossbill. This is 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, and 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 has kindly produced the outline and brief questionnaire below to help 'prime the pump' further. 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. Not a scientific poll, to be sure, but the Council will surely appreciate your thoughts. No specific deadline, but 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. Summer is the time to get outside, of course, and enjoy good company, good fellowship, and a good time! The upcoming program includes our annual Independence Day parade, to be held this year on Saturday, July 1; and the not-to-be-missed Block Party on Dove Road, Saturday, July 29. Mark your calendar, and consult posted flyers and notices for details! *Please pitch in to help with these events* when the call comes – that's what makes it happen! And don't forget, our parks are public spaces, where you can start your own traditions, as a recent small school's-out picnic in Wren demonstrated. Be sure to turn out, and have a super summer, everybody!

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: _____

FROM THE FOREST BOARD
Leah Netherland, Chair

The City Council has approved our budget request to continue the funding of our Ash Tree Removal Incentive Program. If you have an Ash tree in your yard you may be eligible for a \$250.00 rebate toward the cost of removal of that tree once the Forest Board has planted a free replacement tree on your property. To see if you qualify, contact Leah Netherland @ 638-8919. If you have a spot in your yard for a replacement tree, you will be instructed to go to City Hall to get your permit for tree removal.

The Emerald Ash Borer is already here in Audubon, and we are beginning to lose our Ash trees at an increased rate. We must replant these trees with more canopy trees. Maintaining a full canopy over our streets improves the quality of air and dramatically decreases the summer temperatures. Unfortunately, there are more open areas in our

canopy now as we are losing tree cover due to the old age of our trees, storm damage, and disease.

Even if you do not have an Ash tree in your yard, you may qualify for our Right of Way Tree Planting Program. The Forest Board will plant a canopy tree in front of your yard and provide watering and pruning assistance. The \$100.00 cost is entirely tax deductible.

SUMMER PUBLIC SAFETY TIPS

Chief Doug Sweeney

It feels great to be able to be outdoors these days – but crooks feel the same way! Please be vigilant, and keep these tips in mind:

- 1) *Lock your front door* when you are working or relaxing in the back yard and conversely when relaxing on the front porch.
- 2) *Lighting is a great way to protect your property*, since bad guys don't want to be seen in the act of committing a crime. Call police if you see suspicious activities or people who may be up to no good. We are happy to check on them and you can be saving someone from being a crime victim.
- 3) *Make sure that your home has the address numbers clearly visible* on your home and even on the steps in front of your house so that officers or firemen can see in case of an emergency.
- 4) *Use locks for yard gates* which will limit easy access to your property and contents such as lawn furniture and barbecue grills.
- 5) *WATCH FOR CHILDREN PLAYING!* The great weather means more kids will be outside!
- 6) *If you do outdoor activity, do so in well-traveled areas* where you can get help if needed. If you walk or run, do it with a partner(s) when possible, especially when dark, and have a plan in case an emergency arises or you encounter a situation like a dog running at large (Expect the unexpected).
- 7) *Avoid door to door solicitors*, especially concrete or roof repairmen. And never pay anyone for work before repairs are made. Your city ordinances prohibit soliciting. If anyone (other than a protected religious group) is soliciting, contact your on-duty police officer by calling 574-5471.
- 8) *Never allow people into your house to use your phone*. Call for them if you are inclined to do so, or offer to call police and we will help them.
- 9) *Close and lock garage doors* when you are not using them; an unlocked or open garage door invites thieves to your bicycles, lawn equipment or tools.
- 10) *When riding your bicycle day or night, make sure that your clothes don't blend* into the environment. "Be Seen" and make sure that drivers and pedestrians can see you. Always have reflective equipment and lighting on yours and your child's bicycles.
- 11) *Do not leave your valuables in your car in plain sight* as people pass by this invites crime, and always lock your car doors even when driving.
- 12) *Never leave children or pets inside a car*. An 80-degree day can quickly produce temperatures of 120 degrees or more inside a vehicle, even when parked in the shade or with windows partially open.
- 13) *While on vacation, make sure that you stop mail delivery*, and ask a neighbor to remove any flyers, newspapers, and other items that might accumulate while you are away. Use timers to turn lights on and off, and set radios to turn on at various times. Leave a contact number with a neighbor so that you can be reached in case of an emergency.

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14) *When the weather gets hot, check on older and isolated neighbors.*

15) *Always travel on well lit, well populated streets. Always travel in groups. Remain alert to your surroundings. Never wear headphones while walking or jogging.*

16) *Enjoy the beautiful weather, and be safe!*

AUDUBON PARK GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Joanne Bader

Audubon Park Garden Tour and Plant Sale

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Audubon Park Garden Club will NOT be holding its 16th Annual Garden Tour on Saturday, June 24th from 10 am – 4 pm as previously reported. However, the Garden Club will continue to hold a plant sale in front of City Hall, 3340 Robin Road, from 9am-2pm. Most of the plants for sale will be from area gardens. If you have any plants or cuttings from your garden that you would like to donate to the event, please bring them to City Hall the morning of the sale or contact Rose Mary Flener at 637-2484. Profits from the sale usually benefit the Tree Restoration Fund, which helps plant new trees in Audubon Park. Any questions? Contact Rose Mary Flener at the number above.

Upcoming Garden Club Programs

The Garden Club hosts a monthly program series from September to May, and goes on hiatus during the summer months. 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). The Program Committee is in the process of developing the program series for the 2017-2018 calendar year, and a list of upcoming programs will be available in the September edition of the newsletter.

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 President Jane Jonczy, janejjonczy@gmail.com.

REQUIEM: GENE STOTZ

The Audubon Park Garden Club is very sad to announce the recent passing of Gene Stotz, a longtime resident of Audubon Park, Garden Club member for many years and Past President of the Garden Club from 2011-2015. Gene passed away suddenly after a brief battle with non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. Gene was passionate about the Garden Club and the City of Audubon Park. He was very involved in the Audubon Park community in so many ways: he was co-chair of the City's garden tours which returned profits to restore the parks and tree canopy; he spent countless hours gardening and weeding in the city's parks (especially Robin Park); worked to beautify the Park during countless Brightside cleanups; and delivered community newsletters. Within the Garden Club itself, he was involved in so many committees, including serving as its auditor, and was instrumental in opening membership to the public, including non-residents. Words cannot convey our sorrow with the passing of such an amazing man and friend.

A memorial service will be planned sometime after July 6th and will be reported in the Courier-Journal. If you would like to remember Gene, memorial donations can be made in his name to either the Memorial Tree fund or Memorial Bench fund through the Audubon Park Garden Club, by contacting Janet Shumate at 636-0111. Gene has been returned to God's garden in heaven...

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.
- 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?

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: