

# Living

The City of St. Matthews Newsletter

City of Saint Matthews  
3940 Grandview Avenue  
P.O. Box 7097  
St. Matthews, KY 40257-0097  
Hours: M-Th 7:30 a.m. —4 p.m.  
Fr 7:30 a.m. —11:30 a.m.

OCTOBER 2011

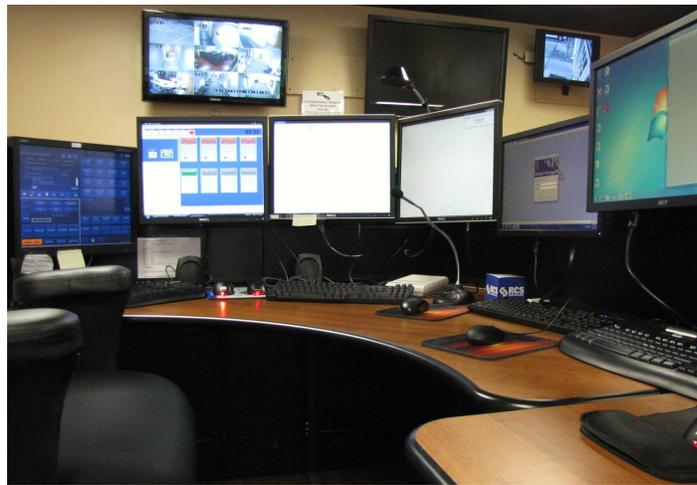
St. Matthews

## Dispatching: A New Frontier

The City has been underway in a major reinvention of the St. Matthews Police Department's Dispatch Unit. The effort has been to update antiquated systems, moving from standard radio to the digital age and linking our City with MetroSafe. The City received a grant from the Kentucky Department of Homeland Security in the amount

of \$64,900 to start upgrading our dispatch systems. The entire dispatch room had to be redone in order to accommodate the new equipment seen in the photo at center. The department upgraded from one station to two, it also had to get furniture to accommodate the use of this equipment. In order to protect the safety of the

department and it's citizens, electricity had to be rewired. After all of this work the grand total came to around \$210,000, a tiny drop in the bucket compared to the systems that the station is now hooked up to.



Residents may recall that Metro spent \$90 million dollars on MetroSafe, a service that SMPD is now attached to. Though the cost of this new equipment and practically new facility may induce ticket shock, the truth of the matter is that through this equipment the City's residents and police officers are much safer. With the ability to interconnect through differ-

ent departments (Metro, Shively, J-Town, Anchorage, and Lyndon) SMPD now can communicate instantly about suspects, crimes, and pursuits.

The last time the system was updated was in 1999, but had become dangerously antiquated. This new equipment comes with the ability to share reports across departments and agencies, but it also allows the ability to map crime and

accidents in the city. Of course with the increase in technology there will be updates to come, but with the launch of this system St. Matthews will be rocketing into the digital age with much better equipment and the interconnectivity required to keep it's residents and officers safe.

# A Message From...



With the downturn of the economy many residents have noticed the empty storefronts popping up in St. Matthews. However, things are starting to change. More and more new businesses are contacting the City and

moving into those open areas. The economy in the City is starting to improve and as always we encourage all our residents to shop local, when making purchases, to continue to encourage this upward trend we're

seeing in the City's economy. In the last few months alone many businesses have started moving into spaces, or at least started the ball rolling in order to do so. The City encourages all who are invested in it's continual growth.

## Staying Connected

With resident's tax bills there was included a brochure for Call St. Matthews. Call St. Matthews is just one of the many ways that residents can stay in contact with the city. It

is a 24/7 Automated Information System that residents have access to by simply calling 638-4STM (4786). By dialing you can get the latest information on city

services, news events, government actions, police activities and more!



## Historical St. Matthews

The upcoming events for the St. Matthews Historical Society are as follows:

- **Sunday, November 13**, the Veterans' Day program will be a World War II true story, "THE FLIGHT NURSE." This is about Second Lieutenant Reva Z. Whittle, the only American nurse captured and imprisoned by the Germans during WWII, tells of her experiences in a German POW camp. ( a character reenactment from the Frazier History Museum).
- **January 8, 2012**, Wadia Newman presents a program entitled, " THE UNIQUE ARCHITECTURE OF LOUISVILLE".
- **February 12, 2012**, Nelson Dawson will present a program entitled, ' GEORGE WASHINGTON".

Everyone is welcome to attend the free historical society presentations, held at 2:00 p.m. in St. Matthews City Hall. Located on the second floor of the City Hall building. To learn more about upcoming programs, or the St. Matthews Beargrass Historical Society, use the Call St. Matthews News Line at 855-INFO(4636) - option 5.

# Season's Greetings

Fall is upon us and with that change in season comes the annual Halloween Festival in Brown Park. Each year the St. Matthews Area Business Association (SMABA) hosts this event for the public, completely free! Over 1,500 children attend yearly to enjoy trick-or-treating in St. Matthews' own Brown Park, located at the corner of Kresge Way and Browns Lane. This event offers music, games, and attractions such as hayrides, a petting zoo, and of course trick-or-treating through the "haunted forest" of Brown Park. Children and families meander through the park collecting goodies from various businesses which are

set up along the path. Free parking is available at the Baptist East Doctors Building parking lot, across from the hospital. This year the

noon. Bring out your little "ghosts" and goblins" for a wonderful and safe trick-or-treating experience! Following the Halloween



The "ghouls" put on a show for all the little "ghosts" and "goblins" in the last Halloween Festival.

Festival, SMABA will be hosting Light Up St. Matthews. Light Up St. Matthews in Brown Park will be held December 3rd, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. "Light Up" features N2It Entertainment, letters to Santa, pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, hay rides, horse drawn carriage rides, a petting zoo, Ronald McDonald, cookies, hot chocolate, apple cider, and much much more! At 6 p.m.

Halloween Festival will be Saturday, October 29th. It will be starting at 11 a.m. and ends promptly at 2 p.m. Trick-or-treating starts around

the switch is thrown and Brown Park "Lights Up" with thousands and thousands of lights. And the best part is it's completely FREE!

## Park Place

As the cool months progress there is much work that will be done in the parks around St. Matthews. Warwick Park will be getting new bushes to replace ones that were damaged or dying. Brown Park has recently had all the non-native material and trees identified and marked. These should be removed later this fall. The stream restoration plan for Beargrass Creek is almost finished and work



should start next spring. As for Community Center Park, the new work for this year is almost complete, with only a few new

trees left to be planted and a few remaining fences to be repainted. The plans for adding a new restroom, a sidewalk, additional parking, and some new landscaping are being created now. All in all there is a lot of work planned for the parks. To learn more specific information about St. Matthew's Parks, use the Call St. Matthews Info System News line at 855-INFO (4636) - option 3.



Report crime or suspicious activity, via the anonymous tip line, 498-CLUE (2583).

# Crime Buzz

The St. Matthews Police Department is currently working on the robbery of the American Founders Bank located at 4220 Shelbyville Rd. The incident occurred on Monday, September 26th of this year. The suspect is also known to have robbed the Commonwealth Bank and Trust in Shelbyville, and possibly the 1st Savings Bank in Jeffersonville, IN. The SMPD is also working on several hospital and doctor

office thefts, where purses, wallets, and credit cards are being



This is a surveillance photo of the suspect in the bank robbery case.

stolen from the offices, and the credit cards are being used

throughout the Louisville area. Additionally, the

Narcotics Unit has served several warrants, and made several arrests, where a multitude of pills, marijuana, and cash has been seized. If you have any information about these crimes or any other crimes or suspicious activity, telephone the

SMPD anonymous tip line at 498-CLUE (2583).

# Hot off the Press

The St. Matthews Fire Protection District board of trustees has three new board members that took office in July. Mayor Fisher appointed Christine Kesler and Sarah Grider Cronan to the board and Sergeant Greg Crabb was elected

from within the fire department as a firefighter representative. The seven member board



of trustees operate the Fire District separately from the City of St. Matthews. As a special

taxing district, the board, sets t's own district tax rate. Also, the fire department would like to remind all it's residents to check that all your smoke detectors are working properly. If you aren't sure call the station (893-7825) during business hours and schedule a home inspection.

## CODE Words

An issue of late involves the various easements that exist throughout St. Matthews. It is apparent that some property owners are unaware of their responsibilities with regard to any easements on their property. There are numerous types of easements: electrical, telephone, drainage, sewer, etc. They usually run along the ear of properties. (This does not refer to the area in front of your property next to the street). Although a utility or even the City has been granted the right to

locate certain facilities within the easement, the area of the easement remains a part of the private property and, as such, must be maintained by the private property owner. Even in those locations where a fence has been erected at the edge of the easement, the property owner is responsible for keeping the grass mowed and keeping all vegetative growth cut down. The rules that limit excessive overgrowth and high grass are in place not just for the aesthetics of the neighborhood, but for the health, safety, and welfare of all in the area. Please be a good

steward of your property and a good neighbor to those around you.

While this is not an Ordinance per say, it is a reminder of the property owner's responsibility and can be found under the Nuisance Ordinance (Chapter 94). It is a reminder to maintain the property free of rubbish and weeds and specifically a reminder that the easement is the property owner's, not the City's or a utility's responsibility.



## Good Neighboring

When is a dog's bark worse than it's bite? Usually when the bark is in the middle of the night! Or at other times that prove annoying to people nearby. In addition to the requirement that all animals are to be kept under restraint at all times, our local Ordinances also place the responsibility on dog owners to assure that a dog is not a nuisance to others by barking or howling excessively,

continuously, or at troublesome times. While most of the dogs in St. Matthews have been diligent protecting us from those rascal squirrels, the squirrels that do brave a venture into our neighborhoods usually vamoose within about five minutes. We have received some complaints at City Hall recently about dogs barking for up to thirty minutes at a time, which suggests that there is some issue other than a vagabond squirrel. If you have a dog or dogs, when they are outside,

please be kind to your neighbors and exercise responsible ownership by insuring that they do not bark for long periods or at inappropriate times. When a dog barks for a long time, the sound carries far beyond the yard it is in and is often disconcerting to others in the neighborhood.



## Police Beat



There are safety risks, inherent to running and walking. With the change of seasons, comes earlier sunset and later sunrise. Darkness poses particularly dangerous risks to pedestrian safety. With those things in mind, here are a few select tips out of an article from [waklinginfo.org](http://waklinginfo.org).

### Be safe and be seen.

- Wear bright/light colored clothing and reflective materials.
- Carry a flashlight when walking at

night.

- Cross in a well-lit area at night.
- Stand clear of bushes, hedges, parked cars or other obstacles before crossing so drivers can see you.

### Be smart and alert.

- Always walk on the sidewalk. If there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic.
- Stay sober. Walking while impaired increases your chance of being struck.
- Don't assume vehicles will stop.

- Don't rely solely on pedestrian signals.
- Be alert to engine noise or backup lights on cars when in parking lots.

### Be careful at crossings.

- Cross streets at marked crosswalks or intersections.
- Obey traffic signals such as .
- Look left, right, and left again before crossing a street.
- Watch for turning vehicles.
- Don't wear headphones or talk on the phone while crossing.

## Easy Going Green



With the change in seasons comes the ever fruitful shedding of leaves. While beautiful to watch fallen leaves can become troublesome. However, for those who don't participate in the Leaf Pick Up Program (see your Works at Work for details) there are many things you can do with your leaves to make use of them.

One thing that you can do to make use of your newly found leaf population is to make a

compost. You can purchase or make your own composting bin, which you won't want to place near anything flammable such as your home or garage. Once a bin is acquired, in order to ensure that your compost is successful you should follow these guidelines suggested by Rutgers Cooperative Research & Extension:

1. Size matters. Your leaf pile should be four to ten feet around and three to five feet high. A

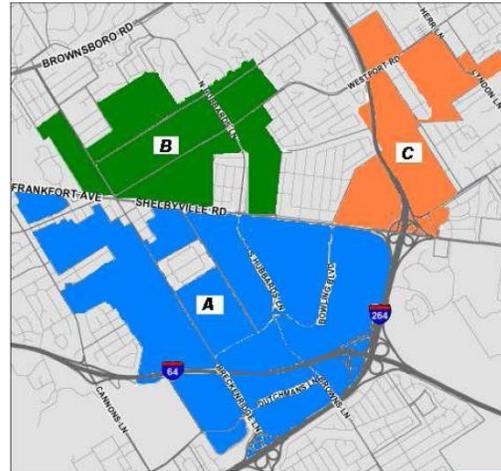
correct pile size ensures proper temperature and air flow needed for composting.

2. Keep your pile moist. You will know your pile contains enough moisture if you can squeeze a few drops of water from a handful of leaves. Do not add too much water.
3. Do not compress your pile.
4. Shred the leaves prior to adding them to your pile.
5. Rotate the leaves in your pile.

# Your Works at Work

The St. Matthews leaf collection program will begin during the week of October 31st and will be running until November 18th. The crews will begin to pick up in the areas south of US 60, Shelbyville road then to the areas north of US 60, Shelbyville Road, moving in a west to east sweep (Area A, then B and C). Dated notification signs will be posted in

each area prior to pick up. To participate in the leaf program, leaves should be raked to the edge of the front of the property. Due to safety issues, please do not place leaves in the street. Do not cover catch basin drains or fill drainage ditches. This can cause backup of the drainage system, if we receive rain during this time. If you have placed



leaves to the street edge of your property and have been missed by our crews, please contact City Hall at 895-9444.

## EConnection to Your Government

The city of St. Matthews is building a collection of email addresses for city residents who would like to be periodically notified of important information such as street closings, snow removal, leaf collection dates, storm debris pick ups and city

newsletters. For those interested, there are 3 ways to sign up. One, submit the green form included with the recent tax bills. Two, visit the city website at [www.stmatthews.org](http://www.stmatthews.org), or three, visit or telephone the city hall offices at 895-9444.

## Green—In Fall

Each year the City purchases and plants free trees in the residential easements for residents who request them. It is time to send in your request for your free tree. Below is a cut out that you can mail to city hall with your name and address, or you can telephone the city at 895-9444 to make your request.




### City of St. Matthews

### Staying Green

### Receive a Free Tree

Stamp Here

City of St. Matthews  
 3940 Grandview Avenue  
 P.O. Box 7097  
 St. Matthews, KY 40257-0097



## I want a tree!

City of St. Matthews

3940 Grandview Avenue  
P.O. Box 7097  
St. Matthews, KY 40257-0097

**STD PRST**  
**U.S. Postage**  
**PAID**  
**Louisville, KY**  
**Permit #976**

**Your Elected Officials for  
the City of St. Matthews:**

Mayor Bernard F. Bowling

**City Council**

Arthur K. Draut  
Frank Flynn  
Stuart Monohan  
Mary Jo Nay  
Martha Schade  
Richard Tonni  
Tony Weiter  
Patrick Wissing

**Council meetings begin at  
7 p.m. on the second and  
fourth Tuesday's of each  
month.**

City council meeting  
minutes available online at  
[www.stmatthews.org](http://www.stmatthews.org).

**Need to know?**

Call St. Matthews  
Automated Service

24/7 Informational Line  
638-4STM (4786)

Administration	Press 1
Services	Press 2
News	Press 3
Police	Press 4

**Government Access**

City Hall Office: 895-9444

Code Enforcement: 899-2512

Police Department: 893-9000

City Engineer: 899-2518

Property Taxes: 899-2511

Police Records: 899-2537

Anonymous Tip Line: 498-CLUE  
(2583)

**Emergency: 911**