



# Living

City Hall  
3940 Grandview Avenue  
St. Matthews, KY 40207  
Hours: M-Th, 7:30-4  
Fr, 7:30-11:30

February 2011

# St. Matthews

## City's trimming of non-native plant species has some expressing concern over 'buzz cut'

St. Matthews has hired a local contractor to remove non-native trees and bushes from Brown and Community Center parks.

NativeScapes Inc., of Fairdale, has been battling bush honeysuckle, porcelain berry, Oriental bittersweet and the like on the city's behalf for two years. Arborist Alan Nations says of the two parks: "If they were human beings I'd have to say they were on life support. ...We've already lost 60 to 80 percent of the canopy trees."

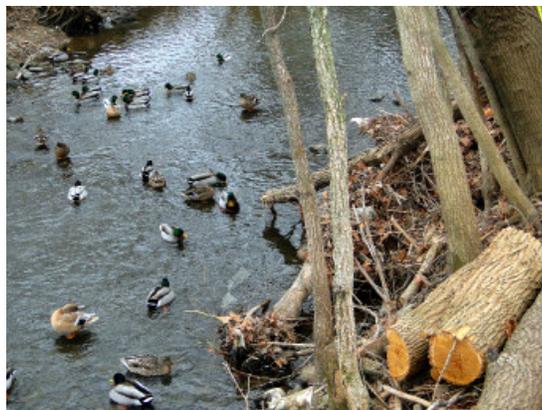
The problem is that many exotic trees and bushes out-compete native species for nutrients and for light that all plants need for photosynthesis.

Nations says most native species are "very passive," while many non-native plants grow aggressively and have "oleopathic" qualities, meaning that they produce toxins to inhibit the growth of competing species. He says conditions that favor invasive species include drought, like that of last summer.

The introduced species also threaten the "riparian" corridor in Brown Park -- the center fork of Beargrass Creek -- by killing "anchor" plants that help prevent erosion of the creek's banks when rain becomes "urban runoff" and the normally placid creek becomes a fast-running, destructive torrent.

According to Nations, a certified arborist formerly employed by the Olmstead Conservancy, "The native plants are put under terrific stress at times of high flow."

NativeScapes also has been cutting down trees that might present a hazard to visitors (those now marked with yellow caution tape). The city has spent about \$40,000 on the projects, part of its longstanding effort to



Efforts to eliminate non-native plant species don't seem to have disturbed the Brown Park ducks.

enlarge and improve the park system.

Eliminating non-native species is just part of the restoration project. Mayor Bernie Bowling and the city council have asked Nations for a plan to replace invasive species with native trees, bushes and wildflowers, starting this spring.

Nations said the parks are crucial habitat for wildlife, especially resident and migrating birds. He said Community Center Park has thriving populations of deer, wild turkey and red foxes in addition to the more familiar opossums and raccoons.

Some residents have expressed concern that the parks look a bit bare, but Nations says that's only temporary. "What I'd like to make sure the residents know," he says, "is that the city is doing exactly the right thing to keep the parks healthy."

Nations said some visitors have "a sense of entitlement" about city parks, some even going so far as to drive trucks down to the creekbank to pick up "firewood." However, the logs are "large woody debris" left in place to stabilize the creek banks and attract wildlife.

### INSIDE:

Easy being green: Heat & light  
Library activities for the family  
City firefighters excel in combat games

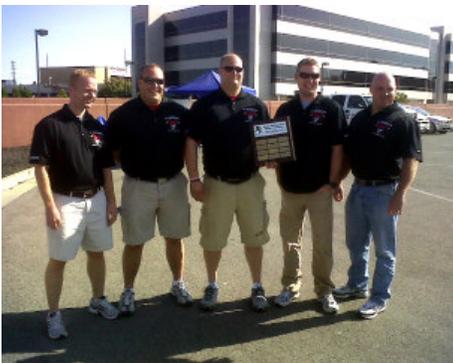
## A message from . . .

**Mayor Bowling and the city council:** We are pleased to announce that CSX Railroad will begin installing new crossing gates at Chenoweth Lane on April 26, with a completion date of May 12. Meanwhile, the St. Matthews Police Department will continue monitoring the Hubbards Lane and Chenoweth Lane crossings during morning and evening rush hours (ticketing motorists who cross the tracks illegally) as part of the agreement reached with CSX and the federal Railroad Administration giving the city a temporary "Quiet Zone" waiver. St. Matthews sought the waiver after CSX trains began sounding their horns at crossings in the city last June. St. Matthews' 1974 designation as a quiet zone had been allowed to expire because of communication failures and CSX scheduling issues. In any case, last June 24, residents were faced with the unwelcome blowing of train horns at all hours. The cost of the safety improvements is estimated at \$150,000.

St. Matthews residents are encouraged to contact City Hall during business hours about any city-related question or concern, or use the 24/7 Automated Information System, "Call St. Matthews," by dialing 638-4STM (4786). However, to expedite utility matters, citizens may want to call these companies directly: Louisville Water Co. 583-6610; Louisville Gas & Electric Co., 589-1444. (To report power outages or failed street lights, call LG&E at 583-3500.

**24/7 City Administration Info Line: 855-SMCH (7624)**

## Fire Department news: "Hot off the press"



A team of five firefighters from the St. Matthews Fire District competed in the relay portion of the Firefighter Combat Challenge, an event in which participants perform simulated fire-fighting tasks while racing against the clock.

The St. Matthews team members are (left to right in photo above, taken after the Evansville competition): Nick Heilman, Joe Bewley, Kevin Moulton, Michael Monohan and George Wiggins.

The competition involves firefighters wearing 70 lbs. of bunker gear racing head-to-head in a simulation of the physical demands of real-life firefighting.

Participants perform a linked series of five tasks, including: climbing a

five-story tower with a 42-lb. high-rise pack; hoisting a 42-lb. hose bundle to the top of the five-story tower; descending five stories and using a mallet to drive a 5-foot, 160-lb. steel beam along the ground about 4 feet; negotiating a 140-yard slalom course to grab a charged hose and pull it 75 yards to blast a target; and a grueling rescue of a life-sized 175-lb. mannequin that must be lifted and dragged 100 yards.

The time a relay team takes to do all the above is recorded. Teams race against opponents and the clock.

St. Matthews' team is in its third year, having done very well in 2010. It finished in the top 16 in relays in Miami, OH, Evansville, IN, and Lexington.

In the Evansville race there is a challenge in which three teams from Kentucky and three from Indiana run against each other for interstate bragging rights. In 2009 and 2010, the St. Matthews team helped win this challenge.

The team reached its primary goal in 2010, making it to the world finals in Myrtle Beach, Fla.

The St. Matthews firefighters raced against the best of the best and did very well in its first appearance in the worlds. Teams that finished in a certain time advanced to the final challenge. The St. Matthews team missed the qualifying time by one-hundredth of a second.

The team was sponsored in 2010 by many businesses in St. Matthews, including Steepletons, Charlotte's Web, McDonalds and Paul Davis Restoration. Members are grateful to all team sponsors and to the fire department for allowing them to participate and for its support.

To check out video coverage of the team's performance, visit [www.stmatthewsfd.com](http://www.stmatthewsfd.com) or surf to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search for "St. Matthews combat challenge."

For non-emergency calls:  
St. Matthews Fire District 893-7825;  
Lyndon Fire Department 425-7474.

**A map of the fire districts that cover St. Matthews is online at [www.stmatthews.org](http://www.stmatthews.org).**

## Eline/St. Matthews Library: "Check it out"

### For adults

Every Friday, 2 p.m.

Knitting group: Beginners and experts practice knitting techniques with other Middletown knitters. Bring your own needles. All ages.

March 7 & April 4, 9 a.m.

Computer basics: Learn elementary computer functions. Call to register.

March 8 & April 5, 9 a.m.

Internet basics: Learn the fundamentals of accessing and using the internet. Call to register.

March 9, 6:30 p.m.

Movie discussion group: The 1962 film *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

March 11 & April 8, 9 a.m.

Learning more about the internet: A step beyond the basics. Call to register.

March 14, 11 a.m.

Kindle reading group: Share tips, shortcuts and reading recommendations with fellow Kindle users.

March 19 & April 16, 3 p.m.

Digital camera basics: Start learning to use that camera you got for your birthday. Call to register. Camera required.

March 21 & April 11, 9 a.m.

Microsoft Word basics: The elementary functions of Microsoft Word 2007. Call to register.

March 22 & April 12, 9 a.m.

More Microsoft Word: Using the Insert and Page Layout functions of Microsoft Word. Call to register.

March 25 & April 18, 9 a.m.

Power Point basics: Steps toward creating a Power Point presentation. Call to register.



**Library hours: M-F 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; closed Sunday**

March 28 & April 25, 9 a.m.

Email for new users: Sign up for email through Google and learn how to send and receive messages. For people new to email. Call to register.

March 29 & April 26, 9 a.m.

Learning more about email: Get answers to your questions about email and pick up some tips. For people who already have an email address. Call to register.

March 30 & April 13 & April 20, 6:30 p.m.

The laptop group: Work with other new users to discover and exploit ways to get the most out of using your laptop computer. Bring your laptop. Call to register.

April 19, 9 a.m.

Excel basics: Learn how to start creating a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. Call to register.

April 27, 6:30 p.m.

History discussion group: The Olmsted parks and the role of conservancy in their preservation.

April 30, 2 p.m.

Movie discussion group: Stanley Kubrick's 1964 classic *Dr. Strangelove*.

### For children

#### Kid stuff

March 14 & April 11, 2 p.m.  
4-H science for home-schooled children.

March 19 & April 16, 11 a.m.

Special needs story time: Stories for preschoolers with special needs. Call to register.

March 26 & April 9, 11 a.m.

Family story times.

#### Events for teens

March 14, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

March Madness challenge: Drop in and fill out an NCAA tournament championship bracket. Top picker of winners becomes a winner and gets a prize. For middle and high school students.

March 22 & April 26, 2 p.m.

Anime @ St. Matthews: Animation celebration for middle and high school students.

April 2, noon-4 p.m.

Prepare for the ACT college-entrance exam by taking a full-scale practice test.

April 19, 4 p.m.

Peeps project: Create a diorama of a scene from a book featuring Peeps. For middle and high school students. Call to register.

The Louisville Free Public Library's "Job Shop" at the main branch downtown offers a host of free employment and career resources, including computer classes, computers with internet access and staff members who are helpful, knowledgeable and friendly. For more information, visit [www.lfpl.org/jobshop](http://www.lfpl.org/jobshop).

## Ordinance spotlight: "Code words"

### 78.06 ALL NIGHT PARKING; ABANDONED VEHICLES

It shall be unlawful for anyone to park in any one place any vehicle on any of the public ways or streets of the city for a period of 24 hours or longer. Any vehicle left parked in any one place on any of the public ways or streets of the city for a period of 24 hours, or longer, shall be deemed abandoned, and shall be subject to all existing regulations of the city pertaining to abandoned motor vehicles. (Ord. 15, passed 10-21-54) Penalty, see 78.99

### 78.09 PARKING OF TRUCKS, BOATS, TRAILERS AND SIMILAR VEHICLES

(A) No truck, airplane, boat, housecar, mobile home, motor vehicle, trailer, camper, or part of such vehicle shall be parked or stored in any front yard or street side yard as defined or required in the zoning district regulations or on a private driveway of a residential lot between a line along the front of an existing building on the lot and the paved portion of the public street, or on any street within an area zoned as a residential or apartment district, or on any street at a place adjacent to such a district. (B) Notwithstanding the provisions of division (A) of this section, the following vehicles may be legally parked on a proper driveway on residential property, provided such vehicle has no more than two axles and does not have dual rear wheels: (1) Passenger vehicles, including vans, having provisions for not more than nine passengers, including driver; (2) Pick-up trucks with a design load capacity of less than one ton, customarily used by the driver as a means of transportation only. (3) Any motor vehicle not referred to in divisions (A) or (B) of this section may be temporarily parked upon any legal driveway for a period not exceeding four hours while actually in process of loading or unloading persons or property. (C) Nothing contained in this section shall be deemed to allow parking in any area where parking is prohibited by the applicable zoning regulations. (Ord. 20, passed 1-11-83; Am. Ord. 93-01, passed 3-9-93)

### 24/7 Administration Line 855-SMCH (7624), option 3

Note: The texts of ALL city ordinances can be found at [www.stmatthews.org/](http://www.stmatthews.org/)

## Police beat

Don't be a victim of an auto break-in.

Parts of St. Matthews are often hit by thefts from cars. These usually happen in driveways and parking lots, mostly overnight (especially on rainy or stormy nights, when residents may attribute suspicious noises to weather). Thieves look for mail, purses, wallets, backpacks, briefcases, GPS systems, cell phones, computers, CD/DVD players, CDs, DVDs, satellite music receivers, jewelry and cash.

The St. Matthews Police Department advises:

Put valuables in the trunk. Covering items with towels or blankets may only pique a thief's curiosity. Don't leave hints that valuables are in your car.

LOCK your car doors. If you have an alarm system... USE IT.

Don't leave spare keys in, on or around your vehicle; thieves know where to look. Use outdoor lighting and motion sensors.

Record the model, and serial numbers of all valuable property, and engrave or etch property with unique identifiers when possible.



**TIP LINE:  
498 CLUE (2583)**



## Easy being green

By replacing incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents, homeowners can have longer-lasting light sources while saving energy — and energy-cost dollars.

You can save up to \$200 a year in electricity expenses by turning your thermostat down just 2 or 3 degrees.

Take advantage of St. Matthews' FREE (for residents) curbside recycling program, one of the first large-scale recycling systems in the metro area. For details, visit [www.stmatthews.org](http://www.stmatthews.org) or dial the 24/7 Info Line: 498-CALL (2255), option 1.

If you plan to replace a driveway, patio or sidewalk, give permeable (pervious) pavers a look. These are materials designed to minimize runoff by letting water soak through, which is better for the soil and also for water and sewer systems, streams and groundwater. They come in a number of varieties; you could even have a driveway of — what'll they think of next? — grass. For more information, surf to [www.paversearch.com/](http://www.paversearch.com/).



Water heating is the third-largest home energy expense, usually about 12 percent of your utility bill. Four ways to save: use less hot water; turn down the water heater's thermostat; insulate it; or buy a more efficient model.

## Good neighboring

Keep the lids on your garbage cans in place and tightly shut to keep out foraging, mess-making dogs, raccoons and opossums.

Don't set out cans or bags of garbage earlier than the night before your scheduled pickup. St. Matthews provides rear-door pickup of garbage only.

There is nothing cute about pet waste. Dog-walking is high on the list of favorite things to do for residents (and visitors) and their beloved canines — but please remember that, just as your pet deserves fresh air and exercise, others deserve to live in a clean and healthy environment. Pet waste contains bacteria, viruses and parasites that can threaten the health of people and animals (including wildlife) unless it is disposed of properly. So, pick up after your pooch! It will be greatly appreciated by your neighbors and those who follow in your footsteps. In addition, it will keep polluted runoff from reaching our creeks and streams, and make it possible for all of us to safely enjoy the great outdoors.

Please remember that the leash law (St. Matthews Ordinance 88-03) applies to all dogs, cats and other pets, even the best-behaved. In St. Matthews, leashes can be no more than 10 feet in length. Under no circumstances shall verbal command or electronic command be considered the equivalent of a leash.

If you want to use a Portable Storage Container (POD), know that city Ordinance 08-03 establishes specific guidelines that must be adhered to. Contact City Hall (use the 24/7 Info Line at 885-SMCH (7624), option 4), or visit [www.stmatthews.org](http://www.stmatthews.org) to view the entire ordinance.

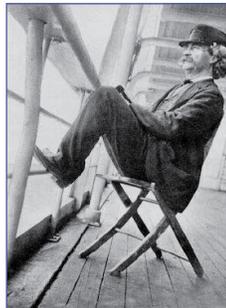
## Historical Society programs

The **Beargrass-St. Matthews Historical Society** has scheduled a series of free programs at its office on the second floor of City Hall, 3940 Grandview Avenue. The starting time is 2 p.m.; reservations not required. Questions? Call Joyce Ruffra at 425-0431.

**March 13:** U.S. Inland Waterways **Capt. Charles (Chuck) Lehman**, author of *A Riverman's Lexicon (in Lehman's Terms)*, will speak about Louisville's heritage as a river city. Lehman, a Louisville-area resident and a member of the National Rivers Hall of Fame, may include anecdotes

about author Mark Twain, who once worked as a river boat pilot.

**Mark Twain**



**April 10:** *Fourth Street, Heart of Downtown*. Local architect and historian **Steve Wisner** will lead a virtual tour of Fourth Street, the thoroughfare of shopping dreams in mid-20th-century Louisville.

## Season's greetings

### Snow removal

The city of St. Matthews operates a comprehensive snow-removal program. After any significant snowfall, all city streets are cleared as a matter of course. Naturally, main thoroughfares come first; once they are cleared, residential streets are systematically treated. During these times, residents are asked to park vehicles off the roadway to allow snow plows and other equipment to maneuver safely.

### Cold-weather garbage

Following heavy snowfalls and during icy conditions, residents must carry their garbage cans out to the street for pickup. Cans containing water or ice, or garbage frozen to the cans because of a lack of proper lids, will not be picked up. Questions or concerns? Call the city's service provider, Rumpke of Kentucky, at 568-3800.

### New trees

The Works Department will be planting trees in easement areas all around the city this winter and spring. If you'd like to have a tree planted in the easement area in front of your property, call City Hall at 895-9444. The species to be planted are chosen on the advice of arborists; homeowners may not choose.

### Building permits

If you're planning to add on to your home or build a garage, be sure to obtain all the required city permits. For building permits, contact City Engineer Jim Birch at 899-2518 or bring your plans to the engineering office. Hours: Tuesday 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Wednesdays and Thursdays 7:30-11:30 a.m.

*St. Matthews Living*  
City Hall  
3940 Grandview Avenue  
St. Matthews, KY 40207

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## Serving St. Matthews

Mayor Bernard F. Bowling

### City Council

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

City Council meetings  
2nd & 4th Tuesdays monthly, 7 p.m.  
1st floor City Hall Building  
**Public Welcome**

City Council Meeting Minutes  
available online at [www.stmatthews.org](http://www.stmatthews.org)

## Government access

City Hall offices	895-4444
City engineer	899-2518
Code enforcement	899-2544
Police	893-9000
Police records	899-2537
Police tip line	498-CLUE (2583)
Emergency	911



**NEED TO KNOW?**  
"CALL ST. MATTHEWS"  
24/7 AUTOMATED INFO  
638-4STM (4786)  
ADMINISTRATION OPTION 1  
SERVICES 2  
NEWS 3  
POLICE 4