

ST. MATTHEWS NEWS

City of St. Matthews

Winter 1998

City Hall

3940 Grandview Avenue
P.O. Box 7097
St. Matthews, KY 40257-0097
Phone: 895-9444

Police emergency: 911
Routine police: 893-9000

Mayor:

Arthur K. Draut

Council Members:

Bernard Bowling Jr.
Harry Hargadon Jr.
Mary Jo Nay
Steve Resch
Martha Schade
Richard Tonini
Gary Vincent
Tony Weiter

City Hall office hours:

Mon.-Thurs., 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.;
Fri., 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

City Council meetings:

The council meets in open session at City Hall on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 7 p.m.

As millennium nears, city leaders ponder St. Matthews of the future

The turning of another year and the approach of a new millennium have Mayor Art Draut and the city council in a contemplative mood.

In recent weeks they have been discussing (informally) such topics as the nature of government and the meaning of freedom — all, of course, in the context of day-to-day issues.

At a council meeting not long ago, for example, a resident of an apartment on Breckenridge Lane asked

for the future?

Are there city services that should be offered but aren't? Are there any offered now that should be eliminated?

Should the city use its planning and zoning powers to preserve the city's current character, or rather as a means of promoting development and fostering growth and prosperity?

If the city has a surplus, should it be spent for some provident public purpose, or returned to the people,

What kind of St. Matthews do you want, for now and for the future?

whether there weren't a law requiring landlords to trim shrubs and provide good lighting in the interest of residents' safety.

St. Matthews has no such law. The city's attorney advised the complainant to petition the landlord, and if that didn't work, to hire a lawyer.

Should the city have such a law?

Similarly, a council member recently argued that the city ought to let residents and business owners know that they should have all their leaves raked and picked up by now.

Should the city simply hope and trust that residents will maintain their yards out of civic pride, or pass a law that all properties must be clear of leaves by a certain date, presumably with enforcement provisions to be used against those who miss the deadline?

More generally: What kind of St. Matthews do you want, for now and

perhaps as a tax break?

Should the council be predisposed to look favorably on proposals that would worsen problems such as traffic congestion and noise pollution?

Is it heartening, or worrisome, when the St. Matthews Area Business Association issues a proclamation thanking the city council for its support and cooperation?

Should the city be looking for ways to involve more citizens in the governing process?

Is the city doing all it can to improve its residents' quality of life?

Now is the time to make your views known; the city's leaders are all ears.

Please put your comments in writing, address them to the mayor and the council, and mail or bring them to City Hall.

Inside:

*Winter activities heat up library denizens.
How you can guard against scald injuries.
Mayor, council gear up to put it in park again.*

Library has winter activities for children and adults

If you're suffering from those wintertime blues, seek relief at the St. Matthews/Eline branch of the Louisville Free Public Library, which, besides having a great selection of recreational and reference reading, has scheduled the following Tuesday evening programs for adults:

The library's monthly book discussions are scheduled every third Thursday of the month at 11 a.m. On Feb. 19 the topic will be "Cold Mountain," by Charles Frazier; on March 19 it will be "Charms for the Easy Life," by Kay Gibbon.

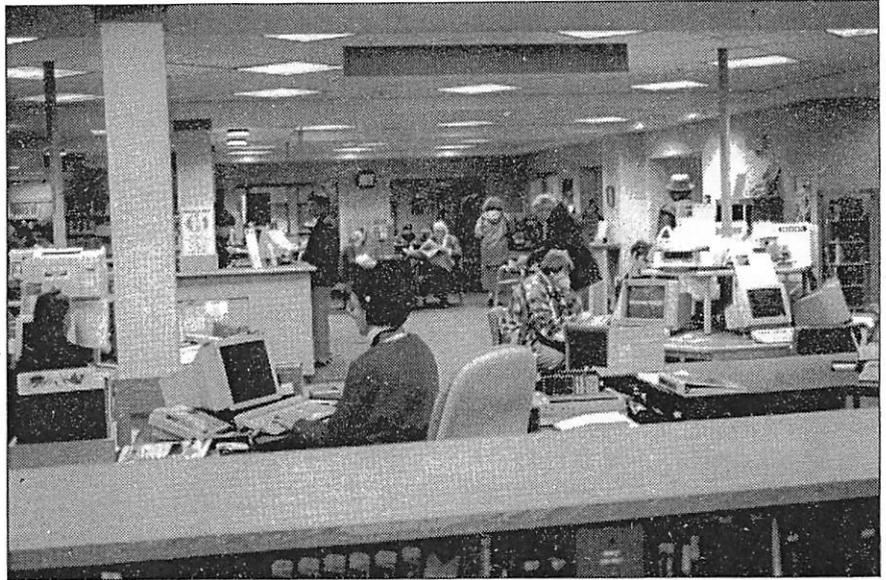
Dr. Douglas Kane will be featured on Jan. 27 at 7 p.m. in a program titled, "A Chiropractor Looks at Winter Injuries."

At 7 p.m. on Feb. 10, the program will be "Taking Care of Yourself in a Relationship," presented by counselors from Seven Counties Services.

On Feb. 24, also at 7 p.m., the topic will be "Living With Grief: Coping With the Loss of a Loved One," featuring Julie McGee of Hospice of Louisville.

On March 3, 10, 17 and 24, Rick Shafferman of Edward Jones Investment Group will conduct 7 p.m. financial seminars; call the branch to sign up.

On Thursday, March 26, writer Genie K. Potter will present a slide show and discuss her recent book, "Kentucky Women: Two Centuries of



There is almost always a crowd of people of all ages at the St. Matthews/Eline branch of the Louisville Free Public Library.

Indomitable Spirit and Vision."

Programs for children:

On Jan. 21 at 4 p.m., library staff will host a bear craft activity and stories for children ages 5-10.

A program titled "Fluffy Tales" — stories about kittens and puppies for kids ages 3-8 — is scheduled for the regular Family Story Time of 7 p.m. on Jan. 22.

The following Thursday's program is a "Teddy Bear Show" for children 3-8, who may bring their favorite teddy

or other stuffed animal along to hear the bear tales and songs and share in a tasty snack. (This program will be repeated on Friday, Jan. 30, at 11 a.m.)

A program for children 3 and younger will be held at 10 a.m. on Jan. 30.

Friends of the St. Matthews/Eline library have contributed funds for a computer scanner, bookcases and meeting-room furniture. For more information about the group, call the branch at 574-1771.

\$5 million bond issue approved for Ursuline

The City Council has approved a \$5 million bond issue for Ursuline Campus Schools Inc., to be used for renovations and improvements. (This involves no obligation on the city's part, but enables Ursuline to borrow money at a discount rate.)

The council also introduced an ordinance that would create a new position of zoning-enforcement officer. St. Matthews would share the officer with the cities of Lyndon and Hurstbourne.

The council also voted to continue the summer trolley service for another year, although ridership has been disappointing.



At the urging of area residents, new signs were installed at Hycliffe Ave. and Wallace Ave. recently, making it a four-way stop.

Protect your child from disfiguring scald injuries

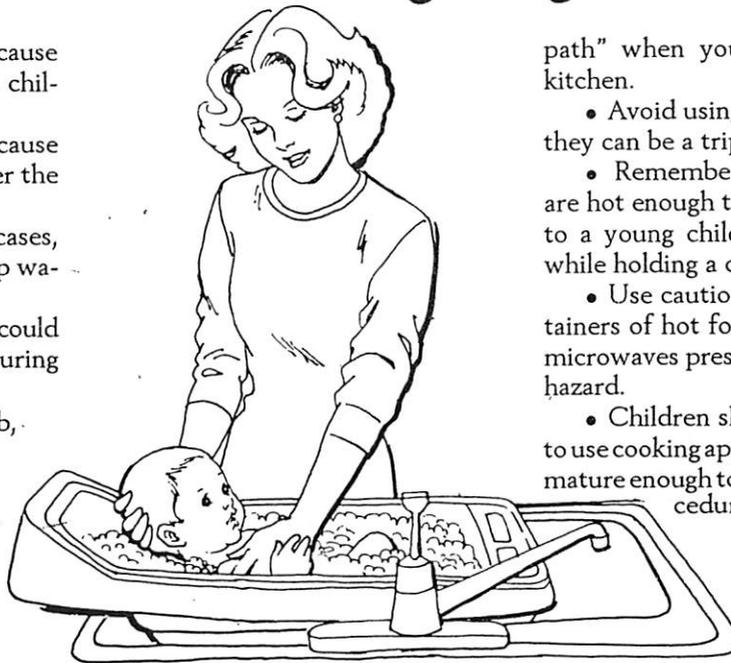
Burns from hot liquids can cause life-threatening injuries — and children are particularly vulnerable.

Scalds are the number-one cause of burn injuries to children under the age of 4.

In nearly 20 percent of all cases, the injuries are caused by hot tap water.

Here are some safety tips that could help your child avoid these disfiguring injuries:

- Before placing a child in a tub, test the water temperature with your hand, keeping in mind that a child's skin will burn more easily than an adult's. The water temperature should not be higher than 100 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Never leave a child unattended in a tub.
- Use extreme caution when bathing an infant in a sink. The tap handles can be reached by the child.
- Adjust the thermostat setting on your water heater to 125 degrees or less.
- Install new anti-scald fixtures on



- tubs, faucets and showers.
- Keep pot handles turned in on the stove so that they can't be pulled down by a child.
- Don't let kitchen appliance cords dangle off the counter.
- Keep children out of the "traffic

path" when you're working in the kitchen.

- Avoid using rugs in the kitchen; they can be a tripping hazard.
- Remember that hot beverages are hot enough to cause serious burns to a young child; never drink these while holding a child.
- Use caution when opening containers of hot food; never forget that microwaves present a serious scalding hazard.
- Children should not be allowed to use cooking appliances until they are mature enough to understand safe procedures.

• Of all the precautions you can take to prevent scald injuries, the most important is

this: *continuous* supervision of

young children.

Remember, all accidents are preventable.

For more information on safety-related topics, call the Fire Prevention and Safety Division of the St. Matthews Fire Protection District at 893-7825.

Speeders to get laser treatment

The St. Matthews Police Department has been awarded a \$13,500 federal highway safety grant.

The department will use the money to buy a laser radar unit that it will use for traffic enforcement and in accident investigations.

The grant will also pay for overtime for officers involved in a campaign to nab speeders and enforce the seat-belt law.

Congratulations to Detective Joel Maupin, who has been named the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year (1997) by the Kentuckiana chapter of the International Association of Financial Crimes Investigators.



Mayor Draut and the City Council, heartened by public reaction to their recent refurbishment of Brown Park, are in the early stages of planning a similar facelift for the St. Matthews Community Center, the city's oldest and largest park. Now is the ideal time for residents to come forward with wishes and suggestions.

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If you tape or staple a sign to a pole or tree, please go back when the event is over and take it down.

Don't set cans and bags of garbage out any earlier than the night before your pickup.

Park all cars and other vehicles in driveways, not in easements or on rights-of-way.

If you have a dog that barks incessantly at night or early in the morning, take steps to silence him for the sake of your sleepless neighbors.

Be sure you place cones or pyramids meant to discourage off-street parking on your own property and not on the city's right-of-way. No one may put anything on city property without obtaining a permit.

If you notice a sidewalk in need of repair, call City Hall at 895-9444.

When snow is on the ground, place your garbage cans at the curb, or provide a clear path to the cans from the street. Otherwise your trash won't be picked up.

Remember the leash law; it applies to all dogs, no matter how well-behaved.



City Services

The average St. Matthews single-family household pays property taxes of \$112.21 a year. (The rate is 20 cents per \$100 of assessed value, or just 12 cents with discounts.) That goes for police, parks, sidewalks, street lights, street paving, waste disposal, leaf pickup, recycling, and other city services. A recent calculation found that the monthly value per household of just garbage, yard waste and recycling services is \$11.83. That's \$141.96 per year. It's clear that living in St. Matthews is a very good investment.

Anyone interested in having the Works Department plant trees in front of his or her home along a city right-of-way can make the request by calling City Hall.

Going out of town? Attending a funeral? Call the Police Department at 893-9000 and arrange to have patrol officers make frequent checks of your property while you're away.