New attorneys to support Mayor, City Council

In March, Mayor Tonini announced that John Singler and Carrie Ritsert of Hodge, Singler & Ritsert will be representing the City of St. Matthews following the retirement of City Attorney Foster Haunz.

Singler is a life-long resident of the City of Louisville and a 1994 graduate of University of Louisville Law School. His family was part of the wave of German immigrants in the late 1800’s who had farms in the St. Matthews area. “My great grandfather’s farm was located where Waggener High School is now,” he said. “I still grow potatoes in my garden each year.”

When asked why he chose municipal law, Singler responded, “I began practicing municipal law in 1996 and found that I enjoyed working with the City officials to help them be more effective in their jobs.” He has represented governmental clients in the area for over 20 years and is retained legal counsel for many cities in Jefferson and surrounding counties, including Middletown, Douglass Hills, Lyndon, and Pewee Valley. Singler also maintains a general practice in civil law.

Singler’s law partner, Carrie Ritsert, will be sharing the oversight of St. Matthews’ legal needs. Ritsert was born and raised in Shelby County and has since spent most of her adult life in Eastern Jefferson County. Graduating from law school at St. Mary’s University in San Antonio, Texas, Ritsert has served her clients personally in small firms her entire career.

In her spare time, Ritsert enjoys playing with her English Bulldog, George. Since Kentucky doesn’t have a similar group, Ritsert volunteers with the Indiana Bulldog Rescue. “I feel that abandoned, abused, neglected, and otherwise unwanted and misunderstood English Bulldogs need both a second chance and a voice, as they have so much love to give,” she said.

Singler said the role of the City Attorney is to provide a resource for the elected officials and staff to be more effective in achieving goals. “I like to think that we fix problems, rather than making things harder and more complex,” he said. “With the Mayor and staff, we go over each meeting agenda, prepare any and all ordinances and orders for consideration of the Council, and attend each meeting to answer questions about the action items on the agenda or other matters that come up in the meeting. Between meetings, we

Continued on p. 11
Audit approves City accounting
The St. Matthews Mayor and City Council members work diligently to serve city residents by providing quality daily and seasonal services and planning short- and long-range projects while being fiscally responsible with City resources. Your City representatives are pleased to share the findings of the City’s most recent audit and pledge to continue a high level of performance.

David May, with Stephens and Lawson, CPA’s, relayed to the council members that its audit of fiscal year 2014-2015 resulted in an unqualified opinion. An unqualified opinion indicates that an audit is clean with no misuse of public funds found. The audit concluded that the City’s “financial position for the year ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.”

KY Retirement deficiency creates City liability
The biggest impact on the financial standing of the City is the $7,000,000 assessment made against the City as part of a liability extended to all Kentucky government entities participating in the Kentucky Retirement System.

The retirement fund shortfall was created when Kentucky state government did not make all of its required payments. The City of St. Matthews made all of its required payments on time and in full. The Commonwealth has informed all government agencies that they will have to cover the state’s deficit. Agencies who are receiving these liability assessments, including the City of St. Matthews, are objecting due to the unfairness of the situation.

Stay aware of City governance
Be informed about what is happening at City Council meetings by visiting the City website to read meeting minutes and view City expenditures. Or better yet, attend a City Council meeting and get to know your representatives.

If you would like to leave a direct message for the Mayor or City Council members, use the Call St. Matthews 24/7 Information System. Telephone 638-4STM(4786) and choose option 1.

Hometown History

Where do you think this picture was taken in 1952?
See p. 11 to solve this issue’s Hometown History mystery.

Louisville Gas & Electric
502-589-1444
Fast path options are: 1-1-1 (gas) and 1-1-2 (electric).

Emergency Contact Numbers

Louisville Water Company
502-583-6610
To report emergencies like water main breaks or broken fire hydrants.
**Easy Being Green**

**City website tips**
Visit the city website at www.stmatthewsky.gov under the Services tab, Sanitation, Recycling, Go Green to learn many environmental tips. You will learn how to deal with animals, fertilizers and pesticides, shipping materials, home improvement, storm water, vehicle maintenance, and issues around your house and yard as well as in the neighborhood.

**Abate mosquitoes**
To disrupt the mosquito breeding cycle, empty water from containers such as flower pots, birdbaths, pet water dishes, cans, gutters, tires, and buckets.

**Reuse your dryer sheets**
Dryer sheets may be reused in several ways:

- Lightly wet a used dryer sheet, and scrub your shower to remove soap build-up and mineral deposits.
- Hose down your car and use a dryer sheet to remove dead bugs stuck to the auto’s body or windshield.
- Soak cookware with burnt or baked-on food in warm water with a dryer sheet or two for easier cleanup.
- Stash used dryer sheets in your basement, garage, boat, or camper to keep out mice, skunks, squirrels, and rats.

**Natural weed killer**
Rather than purchasing weed killers that contain harsh chemicals and pollute the environment, make a home solution. Boil a quart of water and add two tablespoons of salt and five tablespoons of vinegar. While still hot, carefully pour mixture directly onto weeds between cracks on sidewalks and driveways.

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**Sign up for Reach Alert**
Signing up for Reach Alert, the City’s instant communication system, takes only a few minutes and is free. Through Reach Alert, residents are made aware of emergency situations or unsafe conditions, as well as community service notifications if requested. Notification options include text, email, and/or phone. The City does not expect to send out messages daily, but only as situations dictate.

Recycling is collected every other week on the same day as trash on weeks highlighted in red. Holidays are marked in blue and will delay recycling and trash one day.

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**May 2016**

**June 2016**

**July 2016**
Police Beat

Now hiring...
The St. Matthews Police Department is hiring six new officers, the most hired at one time in more than 20 years. Three officers will be full time and three will be part time. The new officers will train with Field Training Officers for six to eight weeks before being assigned to a patrol platoon.

New police cars
SMPD has purchased three 2016 Chevrolet Caprice police sedans. The new cruisers are currently being outfitted with lights, radios, mobile data terminals, and other equipment. Once outfitted, the new cars will be used for patrol.

Heroin overdose kits
With the use of heroin on the rise, SMPD will have five heroin overdose kits available for each of its three shifts. Since the kits are climate controlled, it will be necessary for officers to bring them inside each day and back out to the cars at the beginning of the next shift.

Crime Buzz

SMPD Anonymous Tip Line
If you have seen something suspicious, you can alert the police anonymously by calling 498-CLUE (2583), Option 1.
To report a crime in progress, call SMPD directly at 893-9000. You do not have to give your name.

Free house watch
The St. Matthews Police Department asks that you call them 2-3 days before leaving on vacation if you would like them to check your house. This heads-up call allows SMPD time to fill out the paperwork necessary for officers to start checking your house the same day you leave. Calling earlier than three days before you leave may create confusion. To schedule your free house watch, telephone SMPD at 893-9000.

Hide valuables, lock vehicles
The majority of car breaking incidents are committed by thieves who enter vehicles by breaking windows and opening unlocked doors while the vehicle owner is shopping. The individuals committing these crimes often work in crews, canvassing parking lots and city neighborhoods to identify easy targets, such as vehicles with valuables in plain sight. On average, it takes only about 30 seconds to enter a vehicle and remove items of value.
To help reduce these crimes, remove your valuables from the cab area of your vehicle and be sure all doors and windows are locked. Be sure to call the police at 893-9000 to report any suspicious activity you observe.

Medicare seminar to be held May 24
A free Medicare seminar will be conducted by Medicare Simplified, an independent organization that does not sell insurance.
The program is designed for individuals turning 65 within the next year and for those over 65. If you are already enrolled in Medicare, this is a great time to review your options.
The program will be held May 24, 6-8 p.m., at the St. Matthews Community Center, 310 Ten Pin Lane. Though the seminar is free of charge, reservations are required due to material preparation and room accommodation. Please call 513-382-8533 to make a reservation.
Exploration of library expansion continues

In a special meeting held March 17, the Mayor and City Council members met with Louisville Free Public Library (LFPL) representatives and Studio Kremer Architects to continue pursuing the expansion of the Eline Library.

In the meeting, LFPL Architect Matt Frasure revealed that, at Mayor Greg Fisher’s recommendation, Louisville Metro Council has appropriated $1,000,000 to the project, which is 20% of the $4M - $5M needed to complete it. The remaining 80% will be funded by the City of St. Matthews. The request passed the Metro Council by a vote of 25 (yes) to 1 (no).

While several different building scenarios were discussed in the meeting, no decisions were made. Craig Buthod, a consultant with LFPL, suggested placing a unique object identifier close to the City Hall entrance to draw attention to the nearby library.

Members of the Studio Kremer team will take into account all that was discussed and come back to the Council with plan drawings.

Ethics committee members appointed

Earlier this year, Mayor Tonini appointed three members to the St. Matthews Ethics Committee: Kevin Garvey, Raymond Brown, and Joe Buddell. Each brings his own expertise in government and ethics to the position.

Kevin Garvey is a retired judge, having served on the District and Circuit Court bench for 29 years. He has been a resident of St. Matthews for more than 30 years. He is married with four children and seven grandchildren.

Rev. Raymond Brown is a retired minister. He served as a pastor for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Cincinnati, Lexington, and Louisville. Rev. Brown is a 16 year resident of St. Matthews and has served on the board of the Louisville New Directions Housing Corporation and the Interdenominational Ministerial Coalition. He is married and has one daughter.

Joseph Buddell is retired and has been a member of the St. Matthews community for more than 37 years. He served as Mayor of Cherrywood Village until its annexation with St. Matthews in 2000. Mr. Buddell has also been involved in the Metro Louisville Neighborhood Institute program that explores all neighborhoods throughout Jefferson County. He is married and has one daughter.

New Executive Order appointments to the Ethics Committee will be staggered so that a rotation of members can be established.
Community Center Park reopens
Community Park has reopened! The much needed stream restoration project has provided a nice facelift to one of the City’s “hidden gems.” The five month long construction project was necessary to prevent soil erosion and the widening of the stream. It was feared that, over time, the erosion would significantly impact the existing pedestrian bridges and the adjacent walking trails.

The stream improvements not only provide an aesthetically pleasing environment, they will also improve the natural aquatic habitat. Some of the key construction features include the planting of more than 350 trees and shrubs; new boulder walls at the culvert under Stonehenge; boulders under each bridge and in the server bends of the stream; log veins; branch layering; riffles in the bed of the stream; and various pools.

City park information
Learn more about the City’s four city parks by using the Call St. Matthews 24/7 Information System. Dial 638-4STM (4786) and select option 3, option 3 or go to the City website.

Code Words
Be aware of noise level
As the weather warms up, backyard barbecues, outdoor sports, and excited pets may increase the noise level in the community. Please ensure that your outdoor fun does not infringe on the right of your neighbor to enjoy reading a book with her windows open. Also, be aware that loud vehicle noises can also create a nuisance.

City Ordinance § 72.17 states that it is unlawful for persons within City limits to make noise that “…annoys, injures, or endangers the comfort, repose, health or safety of others…” Show that you care about your neighbors by being aware of your noise level.

Use fireworks lawfully and safely
Though it is lawful to use some fireworks in the City of St. Matthews, that right comes with carefully planned guidelines to prevent endangerment to persons and property. City Ordinance 11-04, Section 1 details the type of fireworks that may be set off in St. Matthews.

Section 5 of the Ordinance stipulates: “It shall be unlawful in the City of St. Matthews for any person, firm, corporation or other entity to use or detonate fireworks on private property in such a manner as to create a circumstance of wanton endangerment or disorderly conduct.” It further stipulates that these fireworks must be consumer-grade, not display fireworks, such as those found at Thunder Over Louisville. To learn exactly which consumer fireworks may be detonated on private property, look at § 93.35, Section 1 under Ordinances on the City website. The type of fireworks that may be detonated on public property is further limited in Section 5 (2).
Hot Off the Press

Hoarding and Fire: Reducing the Risk

Hoarding is a condition where a person has persistent difficulty discarding personal possessions. These hoarded possessions fill the home and prevent the normal use of space.

Fighting fires is very risky in a hoarding home. It is hard to enter the home to provide medical care. The clutter impedes the search and rescue of people and pets.

Fire risks

While hoarding can create emotional and health concerns, it also increases fire risks:
- Cooking is unsafe if flammable items are close to the stove or oven.
- Heating units may be too close to things that can burn. They might also be placed on unstable surfaces. If a heater tips over into a pile, it can cause a fire.
- Electrical wiring may be old or worn from the weight of piles. Pests could chew on wires. Damaged wires can start fires.
- Open flames from smoking materials or candles in a home with excess clutter are very dangerous.
- Blocked pathways and exits may hinder escape from a fire.

First responders

Hoarding can also impact first responders:
- Firefighters cannot move swiftly through a home filled with clutter.
- Responders can be trapped in a home when exits are blocked. They can be injured by objects falling from piles.
- The weight of the stored items, especially if water is added to put out a fire, can lead to building collapse.

When you talk to a person who hoards, focus on safety rather than on the clutter. Help them make an emergency escape plan and practice the plan with them. Install working smoke alarms and test them monthly.

The information in this article was provided by the St. Matthews Fire Department. If you know of a hoarder, call SMFD to talk about your concerns at 893-7825.

Good Neighboring

Be aware of pedestrians
As the weather warms up, there will be pedestrians and children out along the roadways, especially in the neighborhoods. Slowing down and practicing patience creates a safer atmosphere for everyone on and around the road.

Please don’t block sidewalks with vehicles or debris, forcing pedestrians into the street.

Don’t block roadways
There are many narrow streets throughout the City. Please do not park on streets so as to block the roadway, hindering the flow of traffic including emergency vehicles such as ambulances and fire trucks.

Dispose of junk properly
Don’t amass junk at the street. If you have a water heater or appliance to dispose of, call Rumpke to arrange its disposal.

Remember that mattresses must be wrapped in plastic for disposal.

Trim shrubbery along roads
Ever come to an intersection and have to nose your vehicle out to see around bushes lining a property? It’s important to trim your shrubbery or plants so that they do not obstruct a driver’s view of traffic.
Seasons Greetings

St. Matthews Street Festival turns five
The Fifth Annual St. Matthews Street Festival will be held May 21. From 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Frankfort Avenue between Lexington Road and Bauer Avenue will be transformed into one of the best street festivals in Louisville! You’ll find bands, food, vendors, and activities for both adults and children.

Showcased will be area retailers, restaurants, and live entertainment. Family fun and activities include the free Kids Zone, Fun Zone, and Wellness Fair. You will find vendors who have something special, unique, or delicious to share with everyone!

To view a schedule of events or review the bands that are playing at the festival visit the Chamber website page at http://stmatthewsstreetfestival.com/ or telephone the Chamber at 899-2523.

Alexander Hamilton Historical Society of Kentucky
The Alexander Hamilton Historical Society of Kentucky (AHHS) meets in the second floor meeting room of the Eline Library on the following dates at 10:30 a.m. All meetings are free and open to the public.

May 21
AHHS member Dick Ernst will review the book The Return of George Washington by Edward J. Larsen. Uncover Washington’s vital role in shaping the Constitutional Convention.

June 18
AHHS member Senator Scott W. Miller will review Artist In Treason, the Double Life of General James Wilkinson by Andro Linklater. American history records little that is favorable or complimentary and much that is defamatory and critical of the career of General James Wilkinson.

July 16
AHHS member Attorney Mark Webster will review Fire and Light, How the Enlightenment Transformed Our World by James MacGregor Burns. The author surveys the personalities and ideas that embody the best in Western Civilization.

The Woman’s Club of St. Matthews Scholarship program
In 2015, the Club’s scholarship program granted Waggener, Trinity, Ballard, Sacred Heart, and Walden School students scholarships amounting to $17,500, and $9,500 in scholarships for women returning to school. In addition, the Club donated $8,600 to St. Matthews Area Ministries and nearly $4,600 to other organizations.

St. Matthews Upcoming events
May 21
The Club will participate in the St. Matthews Street Festival from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Plan to stop at their booth to check out their offerings.

June 20
From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Club will be holding an Open House at the St. Matthews Community Center, 310 Ten Pin Lane. Drop by and see why the Club has been around for 77 years. Visitors are not obligated to membership.

Sept. 10
A Trivia Night will be held with all proceeds going to the Club’s scholarship fund. Members look forward to seeing many fun-loving people from the St. Matthews community.

Call Jean Duncan at 931-4222 or Bev Potts at 896-6575 for more information.
Eline Library: Check it out

Brothers tapped to lead Eline staff
Kelly Brothers has been appointed as the new head of the St. Matthews Eline branch of the Louisville Free Public Library (LFPL). Brothers has worked for LFPL since 2000 and previously worked at the Okolona and Westport branches. She has a BA and MA in Art History and a Master of Library and Information Science from the University of Kentucky.

Brothers said her transition to head librarian has been bittersweet and that Dustin Strong will be missed, but that she is “very happy to be here.”

In presenting Brothers to the City Council in late February, Mayor Tonini reiterated how important it is to the City for the people of this area to have a spectacular library. Brothers agreed, stating, “We are very excited for our upcoming renovation and expansion.” She invited everyone to stop by and say hello, reminding young readers that, “Summer Reading starts June 1!”

Upcoming library events
For Adults
June 28, 2:30 p.m.
Have you ever wondered about the purpose of Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville’s only Victorian, rural garden-style cemetery? Join Michael Higgs, from the Cave Hill Heritage Foundation, as he traces the role of Cave Hill Cemetery in the history of Louisville as well as the future direction of the beloved Louisville landmark.

July 7, 2:30 p.m.
Kentucky Yoga Initiative is excited to offer a free opportunity for you to stretch, build strength, and create balance in your life. Class will be one hour in length and all materials will be provided. Please wear comfortable clothes. The class will be accessible for everyone regardless of age or ability.

For Children
Family movie series
Each event takes place at 2:30 p.m. and will include an activity and books related to the film.
May 28: Walt Disney’s Brave
June 25: Walt Disney’s Robin Hood
July 23: Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone

Summer reading
Summer Reading begins June 1. The theme for this year is Reading is Magical, and the Library has programs all summer long to help eliminate summer brain drain. For a complete listing, visit the Library’s webpage at www.lfpl.org, or stop by any branch to pick up the Library Newsletter.

Free shred day, drug toss May 14
Senior Care Experts is holding a free shred day and drug toss at their office located at 145 Thierman Lane on Saturday, May 14, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Your confidential documents will be shredded on-site by The Paper Predator, which also accepts binders and staples.

Metro Louisville Police will be on hand to collect expired or unneeded medications. There is no charge! For more information, call 896-2316.

St. Matthews Baseball and Softball games are currently in full swing. Enjoy a hot dog at the new concession stand and take in a free game at the St. Matthews Community Center at 310 Ten Pin Lane.
Your Works at Work

The spring pollen count is high and so is the motivation of your City’s Public Works crew.

Last Quarter’s Accomplishments:

**Completed Projects**
- Snow Removal – applied approximately 400 tons of salt & 200 gallons of brine to the 70+ miles of city streets throughout the winter
- Patched pot holes throughout City – used approximately 6 tons of asphalt
- Public Works crews have begun to remove weeds and to mulch all landscape beds located within our City parks and rights of way
- Put new roof on one of the little league press boxes at Community Park
- Updated landscaping on the northeast corner of Brown Park
- In process of installing over 100 trees in rights of way at the request of property owners. To date, over 35 trees have been installed and another 20 trees have just arrived.
- Installed new catch basin along Massie and Stabler

**Current Projects**
- Began a storm ditch improvement with the installation of 2 catch basins and regrading of 800’ of drainage ditch along Lake Avenue
- Lighting being installed in the rear parking lot of Community Center
- Alley improvements being made between Brown Avenue and Sherrin (from Grandview to Hycliffe)
- Abundant Tree Care was hired to treat over 207 ash trees located within the City parks

**Future Projects**
- Sidewalk improvements on Bauer, Macon, Wendover, and Wallace from Lexington to Dayton
- Sidewalk improvements on Thierman from Shelbyville to Lyndon Way
- Improvements to the pavers surrounding the pavilion at Brown Park
- Possible drainage improvements on Girard Court
- Possible road widening of Primrose from Dellridge to Westport
- Improvements to City Hall and Eline Library

Free retreat for men recovering from cancer

A retreat for men recovering from cancer will be held by Reel Recovery May 23-25. Reel Recovery is a national non-profit organization that conducts fly-fishing retreats for men recovering from cancer. Its mission is to help men in the recovery process by sharing with them the healing powers of the sport of fly-fishing, while providing a safe, supportive environment to explore their personal experiences with cancer with others who share their stories. Retreats are offered at no cost to the participants and are led by professional facilitators and expert fly-fishing instructors. Reel Recovery provides all meals, lodging, and fly-fishing equipment, and no previous fishing experience is required. A maximum of 14 men are invited to participate. May’s retreat will be held at Wooded Glen in Henryville, Indiana. For more information, call 800-699-4490 or visit www.reelrecovery.org.
New City attorneys
Continued from p. 1

are a resource for the elected officials and staff as items come up in the day to day operation of the City.”

Both Singler and Ritsert have been appointed by the Kentucky Bar Association to practice law in Kentucky’s Western District of U.S. District Court. They will share the responsibility for attending City of St. Matthews council meetings. “Because of a prior city meeting conflict,” said Singler “I will take the first meeting of the month and Carrie will handle the second meeting of the month. Our office is a small one, and we work in close cooperation with each other during the month.”

In describing possible goals for the City of St. Matthews, Singler said, “Our role is to provide effective support to allow the elected officials to do the jobs the voters put them there to do. The folks who are elected by the voters earned the right to set the goals,” he concluded.

St. Matthews homes to be assessed

According to Jefferson County Property Valuation Administrator Tony Lindauer, homes in St. Matthews and adjoining areas will have their property values reassessed this year for the first time since 2007.

Homes in St. Matthews continue to sell quickly due to the popularity of the area and the charming architecture. Examples of characteristics that add value to any home include the number of bathrooms, an updated kitchen, a garage, a basement, overall square footage, style of the house, and the type of veneer (i.e. brick or aluminum siding).

Property values are ascertained by the recent sale of homes. Homeowners can appeal an assessment via Jefferson County PVA’s website at www.jeffersonpva.ky.gov. It is helpful to submit pictures with the appeal.

Reassessment notices from the Office of the Jefferson County PVA were mailed to homeowners on April 22.

Two PVA staff members will be available to assist area residents with questions and information at the St. Matthews Eline Library through May 16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. No appointment is required.

For more information, call the PVA office at 574-6380.

Hometown History - 2016

THEN

NOW
The Circle K Marathon and Oriental House are now located on the spot where the Dairy Dip and plant nursery once stood.
Your Elected Officials for the City of St. Matthews:

Mayor Richard J. Tonini

City Council
Bernard Bowling
Frank Flynn
Tim Holland
Stuart Monohan
Mary Jo Nay
Martha Schade
Tony Weiter
Patrick Wissing

Council meetings begin at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.
City Council meeting minutes are online at www.stmathewsky.gov.

REACH ALERT
To receive emergency and/or community service notifications through St. Matthews’ Reach Alert system, sign up at www.reachalert.com or call 1-877-307-9313.

Need to know?
Call St. Matthews Automated Service
24/7 Information 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
Public Works: 899-2517
Property Taxes: 899-2511
Police Records: 899-2537

Anonymous Tip Line: 498-CLUE (2583)
Emergency: 911