

# ST. MATTHEWS NEWS

Winter 2008



## City Hall

3940 Grandview Avenue  
P.O. Box 7097  
St. Matthews, KY 40257-0097  
Phone 502-895-9444

### Automated lines:

**Call St. Matthews  
638-4STM (4786)**

Administration Info Line  
855-7624 (SMCH)

City Services Info Line  
498-2255 (CALL)

News & Info Line  
855-4636 (INFO)

Police Tip & Info Line  
498-2583 (CLUE)

## Mayor

Bernard Bowling Jr.

## Council members

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

## City Hall hours

Mon.-Thurs., 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.;  
Fri., 7:30 a.m.-11:30 p.m.

## Council meetings

Open sessions City Hall, 2nd &  
4th Tuesdays of month, 7 p.m.

## Storm-tossed homeowners praise city's quick response



Recent storms caused heavy damage in the 3700 block of Hycliffe Ave., tearing off roofs and flattening most of the stately oaks along the street. (More storm photos, page 2.)

*Mr. Mayor and City Council,*

*I am resident in the 3700 block of Hycliffe Avenue that was hit very hard by the storms last Tuesday. I cannot begin to express our gratitude for the quick and thorough response of the City of St. Matthews. Within 5 minutes of the storm, a fire truck rolled onto Hycliffe. Within 30 minutes, the police had our block barricaded. I didn't sleep very well wondering how on earth I would get the yard cleared of the massive oaks.*

*At day break the next morning, crews were out cutting up the trees and clearing the street. Our house escaped with no damage but two huge oaks blocked our driveway preventing us from leaving an increasingly cold house. My wife went out to explain our problem to the crew from Treez and by late afternoon, they had cut us a path through the driveway. The Treez crew has been absolutely wonderful.*

*Over the past two and a half years, I have been working with victims of*

*Katrina in New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The one big lesson I have learned from that experience is the need for quick response and, more importantly, a compassionate response. This Sunday was the first time I had to clean up the rest of my yard and cut down a damaged dogwood. The Treez crew and some St. Matthews employees helped me get the tree down and ran it through their chipper. I would have been there all afternoon without their help. I didn't have to ask for help. They didn't need to get approval or a work order. They just walked up and started helping. Being compassionate was the only work order they needed.*

*Thank you again for all you do to make our city a great place to live. Every time I have needed the help of a city employee, they have been responsive and eager to help.*

*Ben & Mary Scott Blake  
3710 Hycliffe Avenue*

## Fire official reminds residents, merchants to display addresses

I'd like to remind residents and business owners in St. Matthews that there is a city ordinance relating to street address numbers.

Most businesses have their addresses displayed prominently because they want customers to be able to find them, but some neglect this responsibility.

I want to encourage everyone to make sure they have their numbers up in keeping with the ordinance.

Emergency service workers, firefighters and police officers always find the address numbers helpful; easier-to-see numbers could save someone's life.

The ordinance says, in part:

"All residential, commercial and industrial property shall display the appropriate street address ...

"Single-family dwellings shall use standard Arabic numerals ... in a color distinguishable from its background at least four (4) inches in height.

"For multi family dwellings a six (6)-inch standard Arabic number shall be used on the front of the building and four (4)-inch numbers with regards to individual unit numbers.

"Commercial or industrial properties shall use 6-inch or larger standard Arabic numbers, so as to be clearly visible to vehicles traveling in either direction on the nearest fronting road. ...

"Numbers painted on a curb do not comply with the requirement."

To see the complete ordinance, go online at <http://www.louisvilleky.gov/ipl/PropertyMaintenance/PMAddresses.htm>

Stuart Monohan  
Assistant Fire Chief  
St. Matthews Fire Protection District



## An ill wind wreaks havoc for many

Driveway dumpsters, roofs draped in blue dropcloths, chainsaws digging through oaks, construction crews clearing debris: Common sights in St. Matthews after recent storms and high winds. Above, a damaged house on Hemingway Road; at left, homeowner Steve Koehler, of Hycliffe Ave., digging where a tall pine tree gave up the ghost.

## Some taxes could be going to the wrong cities

St. Matthews Councilwoman Mary Jo Nay discovered recently that her insurance taxes were being paid to the city of Lyndon.

Now she wants to remind St. Matthews residents to check to see whether their insurance taxes are going to St. Matthews, rather than Metro Louisville, Lyndon or some other city.

Nay called an insurance agent for clarification and learned that the code "1616" is applied to all policies on which St. Matthews receives the state tax.

She was told that the code is

assigned by a computer program that uses Zip codes to identify the proper taxing authority.

People in some Zip codes, including 40207 and 40222, may be paying tax to Metro Louisville (code 0031) or Lyndon (0252).

These codes don't appear on customers' copies of policies. You must call your insurance company to check.

These taxes allow us to provide quality service to our citizens and businesses. That's why it's important to be sure it's going where it's supposed to go.

**Announcing . . .**

# ***Call St. Matthews*** **your automated information system**



**Dial**

( 5 0 2 )  
6 3 8  
4 S T M  
( 4 7 8 6 )

**then**

**CITY ADMINISTRATION LINE**

1

**CITY SERVICES INFORMATION LINE**

2

**NEWS & INFORMATION LINE**

3

**POLICE TIP & INFORMATION LINE**

4

**REPEAT MENU OPTIONS**

5

**TO REACH A CITY HALL STAFF MEMBER**

**(DURING OFFICE HOURS)**

0

(see reverse)

# 638-4STM

## General greeting

Administration  
855-SMCH (7624)

1



- 1 Message for mayor/council
  - 1 Leave message for mayor only
  - 2 Leave message for mayor & council
  - 3 Leave message for selected council member
- 2 Get info/leave message for a department head
  - 1 City clerk
  - 2 Code enforcement officer
  - 3 City engineer
  - 4 Police department
- 3 Government info/council meetings/ordinance
  - 1 City government/council meetings
  - 2 Get a copy of an ordinance
- 4 Information on permits/licenses
  - 1 Building permits
  - 2 Portable storage container permits
  - 3 Sign permits
  - 4 Professional license & business license tax
- 5 Real estate/business/occupational taxes
  - 1 Real estate tax
  - 2 Occupational tax
- 6 Reserve park pavilion or community center
  - 1 Park pavilion
  - 2 Community center

Services  
498-CALL (2255)

2

- 1 Sanitation program
  - 1 Missed garbage pickup
  - 2 Large item pickup
  - 3 Recycling program
  - 4 Sanitation policy information
- 2 Graffiti/potholes, street damage
  - 1 Graffiti
  - 2 Potholes/street damage
- 3 Sidewalks
  - 1 Repair sidewalk
  - 2 Request new sidewalk
- 4 Street lights
  - 1 Report out-of-service light
  - 2 Request new light
- 5 Speed humps/report speeding
  - 1 Speed humps
    - 1 Installation policy
    - 2 Express opinion of speed humps
  - 2 Report speeding
- 6 Leave message about any city service



News  
855-INFO (4636)

3

- 1 Leave information on an event
- 2 Seasonal messages/current events
  - 1 Seasonal messages
  - 2 Current events
- 3 Park locations/descriptions
  - 1 Brown Park
  - 2 Community Park
  - 3 Arthur K. Draut Park
  - 4 Warwick Park
- 4 Eline Library
  - 1 General information/location & hours
  - 2 Current programs
  - 3 Friends of the Library
- 5 St. Matthews Historical Society
  - 1 General information/location & hours
  - 2 Current programs
  - 3 Contact information
- 6 St. Matthews Business Association
  - 1 General information/location & hours
  - 2 Current programs



Police  
498-CLUE (2583)

4

- 1 Tip line
- 2 Information, police reports, fingerprint services
  - 1 Make a police report
  - 2 Get a copy of a police report
  - 3 Fingerprint services
- 3 House watch/extra patrols/Operation ID
  - 1 House watch
  - 2 Extra patrols
  - 3 Operation Identification
- 4 Directions to St. Matthews Police Station



**NOTE: Police emergency 911**

**Automated phone system  
in operation  
24 hours/day,  
7 days/week**

## New phone system aims to make city government more accessible, more attentive, more accountable

Call St. Matthews, the city's new, \$6,000 automated phone system, is designed to put your city government at your fingertips.

Councilwoman Mary Jo Nay, who spearheaded the project as a member of the council's communications committee, said she hopes the new system will "make City Hall even more accessible, especially for people who have

hectic schedules, people who maybe work the third shift. ... This way they can communicate with city officials at their own convenience."

Nay emphasized that the new system is not meant to "take the place of a real person." She noted that, during office hours, a caller can dial "O" at any time to hear a human voice.

Nay said Call St. Matthews will

be especially useful for someone who "just needs an answer."

It enables a caller to target a message specifically -- for example, to the mayor, to the entire council, or to a particular council member or other official.

All the lines in the system can be accessed by dialing 638-4STM and working through the menus, but each can be dialed directly.

### St. Matthews building called instant landmark

A St. Matthews building -- Dr. Tom Haas's Image plastic-surgery center and medical spa at 7501 New LaGrange Road -- has won a New Landmark Award from the Louisville Historical League.

The 11,000-square-foot building, completed about 18 months ago, is clad in zinc and marble and has gracefully curved walls and a lobby that architect Mark Trier, of JRA Architects, describes as "like a very nice living room."

### Hobby Lobby plans store in The Springs

A Hobby Lobby Creative Center is scheduled to open by the end of March in the former Winn-Dixie building in The Springs center on Breckenridge Lane in St. Matthews.

Hobby Lobby, based in Oklahoma City, also has a store on Jefferson Boulevard near the Jefferson Mall.

The stores sell arts and crafts materials; home accent items; wearable art; baskets; and supplies for picture-framing, jewelry-making, parties and holidays.

The St. Matthews City Council approved the Hobby Lobby plans, which include the construction of a loading dock behind the building.

### City officials join in whistle-stop plan

Trains chugging along tracks parallel to Frankfort Avenue will soon be blowing their whistles day and night if the Federal Railroad Administration has its way.

The area through Crescent Hill and Clifton has been a "quiet zone" for two decades, thanks to a handshake agreement between Louisville and railroad officials. In those days about 20 trains a day used the track.

Today, CSX Railroad uses the track exclusively for an average of 33 trains a day.

The railroad administration has changed its safety rules; communities will lose their "quiet-zone" status unless they upgrade equipment, close road crossings, or install new gates to keep cars from zipping around crossing gates.

The aim of the rules is to prevent accidents caused by drivers hurring through crossings to beat approaching trains.

Louisville Metro Councilwoman Tina Ward-Pugh, whose district includes the Frankfort Avenue corridor, recently asked CSX to have its trains blow whistles at crossings for a few days to warn residents that their peace and quiet were at risk.

Ward-Pugh has scheduled a public meeting on the issue for

March 6 at the Clifton Center.

Louisville and St. Matthews officials have informed railroad safety authorities that they have plans to make the changes necessary to keep "quiet-zone" status. That should keep the trains quiet until a 2010 deadline.

The St. Matthews part of the plan involves \$300,000 for crossing-gate upgrades at Chenoweth Lane and Thierman Lane. Mayor Bernie Bowling Jr. said he's not sure where the city will get the money.

"We're hoping we can get a little bit out of metro and the state, then cough up the rest," he told *The Courier-Journal*. "It's an expensive safety issue."

Metro's part involves giving up the "quiet" designation for the Frankfort Avenue crossing in Clifton, at the western end of the zone; closing crossings at Claremont Avenue and an alley that crosses Frankfort across from Franke Avenue. In exchange for those closings, the state has agreed to provide about \$400,000 worth of improvements to crossing signals at Blackburn Avenue.

"There is fairness to the argument that a lot of folks moved here in the last 20 years with the impression that the quiet zone ... would remain in place," Ward-Pugh said.

ST MATTHEWS NEWS  
CITY HALL  
3940 GRANDVIEW AVENUE  
ST. MATTHEWS, KY 40207

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Louisville, KY  
Permit #976

Remember: The leash law applies to all dogs, even the best-behaved.

Don't set cans and bags of trash, yard waste, etc., at the curb any earlier than the night before your pickup.

Homeowners who have had the city plant trees along a right-of-way are responsible for maintaining them.

Residents with trees or bushes whose branches hang over a city street are supposed to keep them trimmed.

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

Yard waste goes to a compost-

ing facility, so it's important to use biodegradable paper or plastic bags or cans clearly marked "Yard Waste." (Yard Waste stickers are available at City Hall.)

Don't leave your car running while you're not in it. Not only is it a car thief's dream; it's also illegal.

If you need to dispose of large appliances (stoves, refrigerators, etc.), call Waste Management at 966-0117 to schedule a pickup.

Drivers: Don't ignore stop signs. Some residents and guests seem to think stopping is optional, but drivers and even bicyclists must come to a complete stop.

Spring is coming. Don't forget that St. Matthews homeowners must maintain the grass alleyways behind their homes; i.e., keep them mowed.



Keeping the alleys trimmed up discourages rodents and provides essential access for utility companies.

If you attach political signs to trees or poles, go back after the election and remove them.