



# St. Matthews Living

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

AUGUST 2013

## Sidewalks, drains keep Construction crew busy

Whether you're outdoors enjoying a sunny stroll on neighborhood sidewalks or you're in your dry basement watching TV on a stormy day, you may have the City Engineer and the Construction Department to thank for it. These City of St. Matthews employees spend a large portion of their time constructing and maintaining sidewalks and drainage systems.

City Engineer Jim Birch recently received approval for a 10-year program to bring St. Matthews' sidewalks into compliance with the federally mandated American Disabilities Act. The ADA requires ramps any time a sidewalk intersects a public street. Ramps must include raised bumps to warn the visually impaired that they are approaching a high traffic area. "Though the federal government did not impose a deadline for finishing the project, they did ask for an inventory, a plan and a set of specs," said Birch. New sidewalks were not required as part of the federal mandate, but new sidewalks currently being built along Shelbyville Road and elsewhere will incorporate ramps.

A master plan for drainage system work was drawn up in the late 1980s. "That plan has been completed, but as we go along, we add to the plan," said Birch. Last year, the Construction Department finished one of the largest drainage projects, putting in a storm system on Grandview between Macon Avenue and Cannons Lane. Currently, a fairly large project on Briarwood has

approximately two months until completion. Smaller projects include anything from unstopping a pipe to digging silt out of ditches so pipes can drain. Construction Department Supervisor Dennis Fletcher works closely with Birch on

these projects. Both at St. Matthews for nearly 20 years, Fletcher said, "We have a good relationship and work well together." Fletcher heads up a crew of five including Jeff Dickens, Larry Fletcher, Justin Reynolds, Kevin Steinmacher and Jimmy Stewart. Crew members have specialties like handling a backhoe or using mathematics and a laser to calculate the slope grade to set drainage pipes.

Part of the department's job is to investigate drainage and maintenance complaints for catch basins. These provide regular (positive) drainage as well as drainage during flooding. Birch said an ongoing issue with underground water movement is causing problems in some homes and is being investigated. "We try to get back to anyone who has serious drainage problems as soon as possible," he said. "If they are getting water in their basement or living area, I usually try to meet them there."



*The Construction Department : Jeff Dickens, City Engineer Jim Birch, Supervisor Dennis Fletcher, Larry Fletcher, Jimmy Stewart, Kevin Steinmacher and Justin Reynolds.*

Most drains are located in an area that abuts private and public property called the drainage easement. Because the city is publicly funded, Construction Department personnel cannot work on private property. "Residents need to know that if they build fences on drainage easements, they may need to be removed when a drain repair is necessary," said Birch.

Besides sidewalks and drainage issues, Birch reviews traffic problems, roadwork, zoning and building permits, among a myriad of other things. "Basically, I get involved in anything engineering-related that comes up," he said.

One of Birch's primary duties is reviewing applications for building permits. "Building permits are actually issued by Metro Louisville, but the applicant must receive a Letter of Compliance from the City of St. Matthews before applying for the building permit," he said. Anyone wanting to build a garage, deck, addition

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# A Message From...

The 2013-2014 City of St. Matthews budget was approved at \$11,517,100. Projects included in the new budget are: continued sidewalk construction on Shelbyville Road, drainage improvements and sidewalks on Chenoweth Lane, new restroom and concession building at Community Park and engineering a plan for stream restoration at Community Park. Residents may

view the budget online at the city's website at [www.stmatthews.org](http://www.stmatthews.org).

Residents who have refinanced mortgages must ensure the Property Valuation Administration at 574-6380 has their correct address before tax notices are sent out in late September. Don't forget that the city offers a 40% discount to residents who pay property or real estate taxes on or before Oct. 31. This, along with the reduced property tax rate of \$.20, means St.

Matthews offers one of the lowest tax rates in the county. Just another reason to love living in our city.



## Easy Being Green

### Greening-up

At a property owner's request, the City will "green up" a vehicle pull-off area previously installed in the



easement area in front of a residential property. To have this FREE green up performed, the property owner must put the request in writing and submit it to

the attention of City Engineer Jim Birch at City Hall. Once the request is received, a review of the site will be made, and the city engineer will contact the property owner to arrange for the work to be done. Green up work is done as crews are available and during the grass growing season. Questions may be directed to Jim Birch at 899-2518.

### Composting

Ever wish potato peelings and grass clippings didn't take up so much trash space? Try composting.

To get started, make or purchase a closed container for your compost materials (it must have a lid). Place the container in a corner of your garden so it will be handy for depositing garden weeds and culled vegetables.

It's best to keep an even mixture of browns and greens in your compost, including whole or chopped leaves and stalks, vegetable and fruit trimming, herbicide-free grass clippings, weeds, straw or hay, shredded paper or cardboard and manure from grazing animals. Never add meat, oily or greasy food and paper, manure from meat-eating animals or herbicide-treated grass to your compost.

The contents of the compost container should be turned about every two weeks and kept moist. Work the compost into your garden soil or around trees, bushes and flowers to give them a nutritional boost.

*Information for this article was found at [motherearthnews.com](http://motherearthnews.com).*



**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/trash one day.**

#### August 2013

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

#### September 2013

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

#### October 2013

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## Brown Park

The city is currently researching pricing to place a safety call station in



Brown Park like the one in Community Park. The station will be located near the parking lot and will consist of a wireless cell phone

system that connects to 911 downtown. The system is expected to be in place by the end of the year.

## Draut Park

Due to the beavers in Draut Park, trees have received a coating of paint and sand. The paint and sand combination acts as a deterrent to keep the beavers from chewing down the trees. Keep your eyes open to see if you spot the furry visitors.

Invasive plant removal has been completed in Draut Park. The plan to remove the plants has been ongoing and includes many non-native plant species.

## Community Park

When you take your kids out for some fresh air, you may notice the new wood chip surface at Community Park playground. The new surface was put in over the winter and greatly enhances park play.



# Seasons Greetings

## Farmer's Markets

Green beans, tomatoes and corn, oh my! St. Matthews has three farmer's markets during the growing season. Following are their locations and hours:

### St. Matthews Farmers Market

Beargrass Christian Church  
4100 Shelbyville Road  
Saturdays, 8 a.m. – Noon  
May 11 thru Oct. 12

### Rainbow Blossom Farmer's Market

3738 Lexington Road  
Sundays, Noon – 4 p.m.  
June 2 thru Oct. 27

### Whole Foods Market

Farm 2 Table  
4944 Shelbyville Road  
Wednesdays, 3-7 p.m.  
May 15 thru September



## Alexander Hamilton Historical Society of Kentucky

Programs are held on the second floor of St. Matthews City Hall in the Library Meeting Room on the third Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m. They are free to the public.

- Aug. 17 – Paper presentation by a university student: "Is the Founders'

Political Philosophy Still Relevant Today?"

- Sept. 21 – Dr. Thomas Mackey, U of L Constitutional Law Professor, will review James W. Ely's *The Guardian of Every Other Right, A Constitutional History of Property Rights*.
- Oct. 19 – Dr. Aaron Hoffman, Bellarmine Professor of Political Science, will review *Power vs. Liberty: Madison, Hamilton, Wilson and Jefferson*.

For more information contact Lynn Olympia at 709-5070 or Olympia1231@aol.com.

# Proper pool drainage maintains environment

As summer winds down and fall moves in, some residents will be preparing for winter by draining



swimming pools. If you own or maintain a swimming pool, it is important to be aware of proper pool maintenance and the harm pool waste can cause water systems. Pool water contains pollutants such as salts and

chlorine that could end up in waterways, if not drained correctly.

For proper pool maintenance, observe the following storm water pollution prevention:

- Prior to draining a pool, inspect and clean the drainage path, be it a curb, gutter or street, to ensure trash, sediment and other debris will not wash into the storm drain system.
- Test the pool water for chlorine levels. If the level is higher than 0.1 parts per

million, wait a few more days for the chlorine to dissipate or use a chemical chlorine reducer.

- Pool filter waste should never be washed into the environment. Filter waste should be bagged wet and placed in a trash container.

Taking these simple steps will help maintain a healthy environment for your family and your neighbors.



# Police Beat

As a nation we rely on the National Transportation Safety Board to investigate accidents, but did you know that St. Matthews has its own investigative team? The St. Matthews Police Accident Investigation Team has been in place since the mid-1990s and is made up of officers with extensive training and expertise in investigating vehicle collisions that are beyond the capabilities of everyday patrol officers.

Team members, including a lead sergeant and four officers, are selected based on their previous experience and training as well as their interest in responding to serious

accidents. All members of the team attend a six-week accident reconstruction school where they



learn to determine from evidence at the scene what happened during a critical accident and how to provide detailed analysis for all involved

parties. In addition to the six-week accident reconstruction training, team members attend specialized training for accidents occurring at railroad crossings and pedestrian, bicycle, ATV and commercial vehicle accidents. The training enables them to give a professional response to fatal collisions, collisions with critical injuries, collisions involving government vehicles and other collisions that are out of the ordinary.

On call, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, the team is ready to respond to the needs and find solutions for the St. Matthews community.

## Crime Buzz

The St. Matthews Police Department is requesting residents to call the non-emergency line (893-9000) when they see any type of solicitor going door to door in St.

Matthews. The majority of these solicitors are running scams, and they have also been suspected in some daytime burglaries.

### 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.

## Rx drug disposal available



Prescription drugs can be disposed of safely by taking them down to the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department and depositing them

in the Prescription Drug Disposal Box. Disposing of prescription drugs in a proper manner keeps them off the streets and out of the water supply. After drop-off, the drugs are transported to Indianapolis to be burned in a certified furnace.

The box sits in the waiting room of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department at 531 Court Place in Room 604 (sixth floor) and is available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Call St. Matthews system

### Services Option

Ever see a pothole and want to report it or keep getting skipped by the garbage man? St. Matthews has a 24/7 automated information line known as Call St. Matthews. One menu option features services St. Matthews provides and can be reached by dialing 638-4STM, Option 2, or direct dialing 498-CALL (2255).

After reaching the Services Option, you will be able to select from the following topics: sanitation program; graffiti/potholes, street damage; sidewalks; street lights; speed humps/report speeding; as well as leave a message for St. Matthews City Hall personnel.

Besides Services, Call St. Matthews features three other menu options. A

full brochure can be viewed on the city website at [www.stmatthews.org](http://www.stmatthews.org), at city hall offices or at the library. Get familiar with your options and find the answers to your questions at your fingertips.

**Call St. Matthews  
638-4STM**

## Street lights

To report an out of service street light or one that burns all day, phone the Call St. Matthews line at 638-4STM (4786) and select option 2, then option 4.

## Quiet, please!

Be considerate of your neighbors by keeping your car radios turned down and the noise from parties to an acceptable level.



## Pole signage

If you are having a yard sale, have lost a pet or would like to advertise using

utility pole signage, please remember that you are responsible to remove them.

## Your pet, your care

Remember to pick up after your pets and keep them on a leash. Also, 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.

## Check It Out



The summer reading program is going strong. Join St. Matthews

Eline Library on Saturday, Aug. 10 at 2 p.m. for their Summer Reading Finale featuring Second Chances Wildlife. Critters and cake is the name of the game on this last day to turn in your Summer

Reading forms and win prizes. All ages are invited.

Other St. Matthews Eline upcoming programs include:

### Louisville's Worship Spaces

Featuring the beautiful religious structures of the city, Louisville historian Steve Wiser provides the history and images of area churches on Tuesday, Aug. 20, at 2:30 p.m.

### The Belle of Louisville & Steamboat History

Katie Engstrom, the Belle of Louisville's Education Coordinator, will present our historic connections to the steamboat era, general information about the Ohio River and the steamboat industry, and the overall history of the Belle of Louisville and her equally historic wharf boat on Monday, Sept. 16, at 2:30 p.m.

## Join The Woman's Club of St. Matthews

Founded in 1938, The Woman's Club of St. Matthews funds community projects and enjoys social events and educational programs. The club currently meets at The Bistro on the grounds of the Masonic Home, and membership is open. On Aug. 12 from 2-4 p.m., the club has its Membership

Tea, which is open to all. To RSVP for the tea, call club president, Fran Evola, at 502-445-3040. To find out more about the Woman's Club of St. Matthews, visit [www.wcsm.com](http://www.wcsm.com).

Following are the upcoming luncheon events, which are free except for the cost of lunch at The Bistro:

- Sept. 23 - 11 a.m.: Home Life Program
- Oct. 28 - 11 a.m.: Education Program
- Nov. 25 - 11 a.m. Member Public Issues Program

## Sidewalks, drains

*continued from page 1*

or add to the interior of their structure, including electrical changes, must fill out a building permit application, which can be obtained at city hall. The resident then submits the application along with a copy of the site plan to the City Engineer, who reviews the application for zoning issues and to ensure the contractor has a St. Matthews business license. "There are

different rules regarding how far a garage can be from a deck, etc., that we can explain to residents," said Birch. After Birch approves the plan, the city issues a Letter of Compliance, which will be taken by the resident to Metro Louisville to request the actual building permit.

Birch and the Construction Department also coordinate with the Works

Department to help construct park buildings and do general maintenance in the parks, among other things.

Though there are new challenges every year, sidewalks and drains will likely provide the lion's share of the work. And for that, residents can be truly thankful.

# Your Works at Work

## Construction

The city has completed phase one of drainage improvements to Briarwood Road and has begun phase two. It has also finished grading work on the east side of Ridgeway Avenue, repaired a storm sewer on Abbeywood Road and completed final grading and seeding of the grass alley between Marquette Avenue and Harris Place.

## Works

Projects completed by the Works Department include: Tree removal and replanting at Community Center Park; patching potholes and mulching and planting in landscape beds throughout the city and in city parks; debris removal and planting dogwood and redbud trees in Brown Park; installing border material for the playground base at Community



*Danny Webb (left) and Tim Casey pick up tree limbs after a severe storm in July.*

Park; removing graffiti in Draut Park; and remodeling a restroom, removing a diseased tree and adding additional parking spaces at city hall.

# Road rules for cyclists and motorists

“Sharing the road” has become a mantra as smaller and larger vehicles learn to coexist on American byways. Here are some rules to follow whether you ride on two or four wheels.

## Cyclists

- Use a front light when riding at night or whenever it is darker than usual.
- Use a red rear reflector or light on yourself or your bicycle whenever riding on a highway or shoulder. At night or when overcast, use a steady or flashing red rear light.
- Shout or sound a bell or horn when approaching a pedestrian or other bicycle.
- It is illegal to carry more passengers than the bicycle was designed to accommodate.
- It is illegal to attach yourself or your bicycle to another vehicle.
- No person over 11 years old shall operate a bicycle on any sidewalk in Louisville Metro, and nobody of any age shall ride on the sidewalk downtown.
- No person shall operate a motorized vehicle on a designated bike path or bike lane.

- Wear a helmet if you are under 18 years old and you are riding in any Metro Park.

**Bicycles are considered “vehicles” in Kentucky and are subject to all rights and regulations of other vehicles.**

These include:

- Stop at all stop signs and red lights as must other vehicles.



- Pass on the left and make turns from the appropriate lane; however, you are encouraged to remain in an on-road bicycle lane even if it means you will pass some stopped traffic on the right.
- Signal, using your hands, lamps or mechanical devices.
- All slow moving vehicles must bear as far right in their lane as is

safe and practical, including bicycles.

- If there is on-road parking, a particularly narrow street, debris, or other hazards, you are allowed to claim as much of the lane as necessary to ride safely.

## Motorists

- Share the road with bicyclists.
- Before passing a cyclist: Look to see if there is something in the right lane that might cause the cyclist to divert their course to the left.
- Pass only when you can allow at least three feet between yourself (as measured from the extent of your rear-view mirrors) and the cyclist.
- Return to your lane only when completely clear of the cyclist.
- If you turn right after passing a cyclist, only do so if you leave enough room that his forward path is not obstructed.
- When opening your car door, look for cyclists in your rear-view mirror.

These rules will help ensure the safety of both cyclists and cars. Be a good neighbor – SHARE THE ROAD!



Every year, almost 1,000 smokers and non-smokers are killed in home fires caused by cigarettes and other smoking materials. The U.S. Fire Administration is working to help prevent home fire deaths and injuries



caused by smoking materials. Fires caused by cigarettes and other smoking materials are *preventable*. You *can* make a difference!

If you smoke or live with someone who smokes, learn the facts. A lit cigarette accidentally dropped onto a chair or bed, or hot cigarette ashes or matches tossed away before they are completely out can cause a large fire in seconds. Putting out a cigarette the right way only takes seconds, too. It is up to you to make sure your cigarette is put out, all the way, every time.

One-in-four people killed in home fires is not the smoker whose

cigarette caused the fire. More than one third are children of the smokers. Twenty-five percent are neighbors or friends of the smokers.

Take these steps to prevent fires caused by smoking:

- If you smoke, smoke outside.
- Wherever you smoke, use deep, sturdy ashtrays.
- Make sure cigarettes and ashes are out.
- Check cigarette butts.
- Never smoke in a home where oxygen is used.
- If you smoke, fire-safe cigarettes are better.

## Code Words

When Jane Q. St. Matthews turned 16, her parents bought her a used car. Along with Jane's newfound freedom and responsibility, the family also created a dilemma for themselves – they had more cars than they had parking spaces.

Often as families mature and young drivers become vehicle owners, households run out of car space. In these situations, it is important to be aware of city ordinances regarding parking. According to Ordinance No. 92.03, "No person, firm, or corporation shall be permitted to obstruct any sidewalk, alley or public way in any manner to prevent the free

use thereof by pedestrians using sidewalks, or vehicles using the alley or public way, except only the necessary construction pursuant to a permit first obtained from the Department of Public Works."

The ordinance is simply saying that obstruction of public ways is prohibited. For instance, although your driveway may go through the sidewalk and onto the street, it does not mean that you may park over the sidewalk. The sidewalk is meant for pedestrians and when it is obstructed, residents, including disabled citizens and parents with strollers, are exposed to vehicular traffic.

And if you are thinking of adding more parking to accommodate young Jane's car, call St. Matthews City Hall first to request required approvals from the City Engineer. Along with teaching Jane about motor vehicle responsibility, you will be teaching her about being a good neighbor.



## Give blood



There's nothing quite so personal as giving blood. The American Red Cross asks that you include them when planning your summer activities. While many folks are enjoying activities with family and friends, some in the community are unwell and in need of

life-giving resources. In St. Matthews, you can donate at the American Red Cross located at 291 North Hubbards Lane in the Woodlawn Center. For more information, call them at 540-7059

Make time to donate blood and make a difference in someone's life.

**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 Tonini

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.stmatthews.org](http://www.stmatthews.org).

## **E-CONNECTION**

To submit your email address to  
receive important St. Matthews  
updates, visit the city website at  
[www.stmatthews.org](http://www.stmatthews.org) or call city  
offices. Email addresses will not be  
shared with other parties.

## **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

Property Taxes: 899-2511

Police Records: 899-2537

**Anonymous Tip Line:**  
**498-CLUE**  
**(2583)**

**Emergency: 911**