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St Matthews Living
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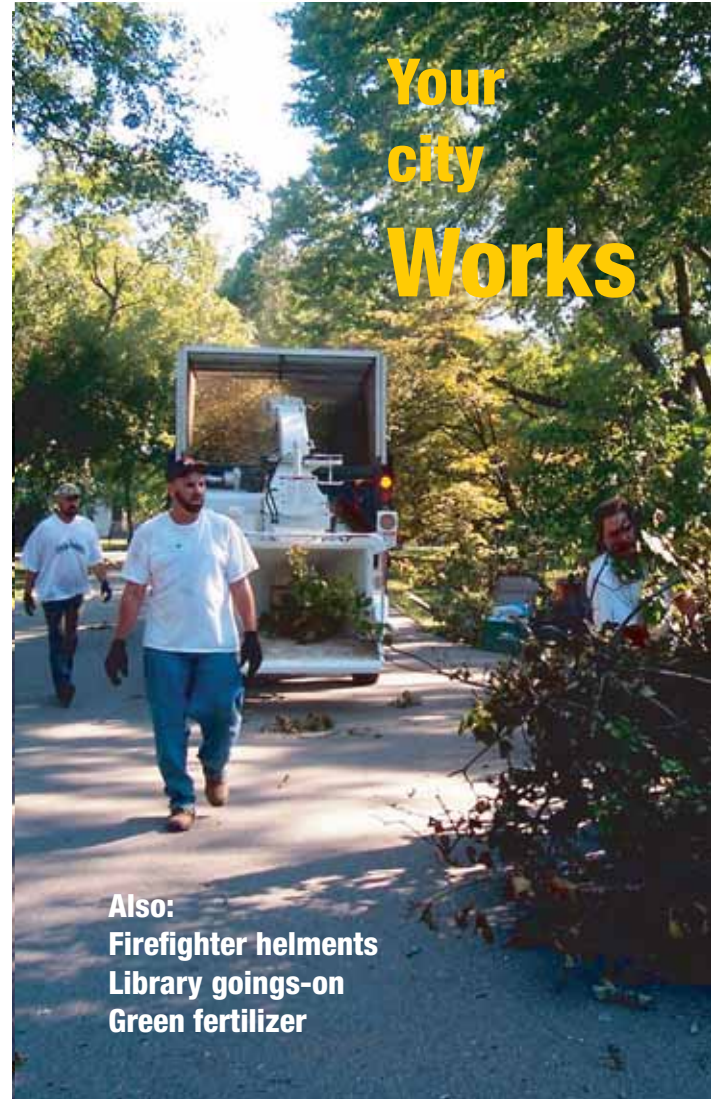


Living

City Hall
3940 Grandview Avenue
St. Matthews, KY 40257-0097
Phone (502) 895-9444

February 2010

St. Matthews



Your
city
Works

Also:
Firefighter helmets
Library goings-on
Green fertilizer

LOUISVILLE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FAIR

Saturday Feb. 27, 2010, 11:30 a.m.
Salvation Army Male Campus, 911 S. Brook Street

Featuring Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson
Free admission; canned food items will be collected for Dare to Care

Door prizes Children's activities Food and drink

In the recent past, Louisville has experienced three natural disasters acknowledged by the Federal Emergency Management Agency – the wind storm of September 2008, the ice storm of January 2009, and the flood of August 2009; not to mention the snows of February 2010.

In the wake of these disasters, many Louisville-area homeowners were without power for dangerously long periods; many citizens' homes were damaged; and the community was left with an overwhelming clean-up job.

Come learn what you can do to be better prepared for such events – as an individual and as part of a family and part of a neighborhood.

- **Preparing a 72-hour survival kit**
- **Putting food and water aside for emergencies**
- **Knowing what to do when the power goes out**
- **Learning how to use a power generator safely**
- **Caring for pets in an emergency**

Among the companies and agencies taking part:

LG&E, Metro United Way, Louisville Fire Department, Louisville Metro Emergency Medical Services, University of Louisville, Jefferson County Agricultural Extension Service

Sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

For information, call Bruce Smith
at 655-1688 or 1-800-879-5453, ext. 199.

Quick reference

City Hall: 895-9444

Police: 893-9000

Emergency: 911

Web: www.stmatthews.org/

**Call St. Matthews
24/7 Automated Info System
638-4STM (-4786)
News/Services/Admin/Police**

**Council meeting times: Open sessions
at City Hall on the second and fourth
Tuesdays of each month at 7 p.m.**

**City Hall office hours: Mon.-Thurs.,
7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Fri., 7:30 a.m.-
11:30 a.m.**

**Crime Tip Line: 498-CLUE (-2583)
(Caller's name, number not recorded)**



Your St. Matthews city council and mayor (left to right): Arthur K. Draut; Gary Vincent; Martha Schade; Stuart Monohan; Mayor Bernard Bowling Jr.; Patrick Wissing; Mary Jo Nay; Frank Flynn; Richard Tonini.



Park cars and trucks in driveways, not on easements or rights-of-way; many city streets are narrow. If you or a guest must park on the street, the rule is: two tires on the pavement, two off.

*

When it snows, don't leave cars or other obstructions on the street; you'll want Works Department snowplow drivers to be able to get through.



After heavy snowfalls and when sidewalks are icy, St. Matthews residents must carry garbage cans out to the street for pickup – unless a path has been cleared to the back.

*

If you put concrete pyramids or other impediments along the street to protect your lawn, keep in mind that *homeowners may be legally liable* for any accidents or damage they cause.

City Works Department serves by playing whack-a-mole with problems big and small

Don't bother Terry Ridgeway with questions about the long view.

Ridgeway, a St. Matthews resident and employee for 30 years, works hard to stay focused on the near-at-hand — the pothole that needs patching, the snowdrift that needs plowing, the tree that's in somebody's way.

For eight years, Ridgeway has been superintendent of the St. Matthews Works Department. When the chips — or trees — are down, it's Ridgeway and his 12 or 13 employees (11 full-time) who keep your basement dry, help you get to work, keep your lights on, and patch the pothole that rattled your teeth.

Asked about budget and payroll expenses, Ridgeway says: "I don't really pay too much attention to that kind of stuff. I get the call, and somebody tells me about a problem, and I go out and make sure it gets fixed. I just try to take good care of the residents."

Good care, as in the case of the windstorm that tore up the city's trees in 2008. ("That was a good one," Ridgeway says, meaning a bad one.) In St. Matthews, the mountains of debris left behind were



Works Supt. Terry Ridgeway on the job at the department's headquarters off Ten Pin Lane.

picked up and disposed of in less than a month. In some parts of the county the work took twice or three times as long. (Ridgeway notes that the city also hired a local tree service to help, and says, "They did a real

good job for us.")

"It went real well, considering," says Ridgeway, who tends to be a man of few words.

Calling to mind a chaotic scene that stormy night on Bonner Avenue, debris in the air, tree limbs snapping, electric transformers popping, and trees across the road so big you needed two backhoes to drag them away. At one point he says, "Rick was out there with me."

Turns out he's talking about

that was decidedly short on resources. The memory turns him loquacious: "We had a old '63 Ford dump truck and two Dodge one-ton dumps, the newest one a 1978, and an old backhoe where if you wanted it to dig over there, you had to put it way over here; it was real sloppy. And the garbage trucks, too. We had sanitation then."

He was happy when someone else was hired to handle garbage. "I have a real weak stomach," he says.

'I get the call, and somebody tells me about a problem, and I go out and make sure it gets fixed. I just try to take good care of the residents.'

council member Rick Tonini.

It's not unusual for a council member or Mayor Bernard Bowling Jr. to show up where the Works Department works. That's part of a hands-on city government tradition created by longtime Mayor Bernard Bowling Sr., who is said to have cleared muck out of storm drains, shoveled dirt, and, famously, driven a used-up wreck of a garbage truck from house to house. (In those days, the city picked up its own garbage.)

In his early years as a Works Department employee, Ridgeway says, he was part of a department

The department has lots better equipment now, he says, including "two backhoes, two big GMC dump trucks with snow plows, and a big Ford F-450 with a plow and spreader." Spread the word.

The Works Department budget for fiscal 2009 was \$3,475,001; the total St. Matthews budget was \$9,491,620.

The Works Department seems almost invisible between emergencies, but most of its budget goes to pay for the department's daily work — cutting grass, maintaining city parks and patching potholes.

Fire Protection District gets federal grant to help pay for lighter, safer helmets

The St. Matthews Fire Protection District won a federal grant in January to help pay for 50 new helmets.

The \$8,100 matching grant from the U.S. Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) program enabled the district to replace helmets more than 10 years old. The new helmets are lighter and meet national fire safety equipment standards.

The aim of the AFG program is to meet the firefighting and emergency-response needs of U.S. fire departments and emergency medical service organizations.

Since 2001, AFG has helped first responders obtain critically needed equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training and other resources needed to protect



the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards.

In 2009 the district received a \$346,500 AFG grant to help pay for a new 100-foot ladder truck that replaced one that was 23 years old.

The St. Matthews District operates two stations manned by both full-time and volunteer firefighters. It protects the part of St. Matthews north of the Watterson Expressway and 11 neighboring small cities. It is one of 19 fire districts in metro Louisville.



**Easy
being
green**

The Metropolitan Sewer District sells an organic-based fertilizer called "Louisville Green." You can buy the 5-3-0 fertilizer in bulk or in 40-lb. bags.

Louisville Green contains slow-release nitrogen and is ideal for

many applications. Its heat-dried pellets are 5 percent nitrogen (4.5 percent water insoluble) and 3 percent available phosphate.

Louisville Green's plant recently won certification from the National Biosolids Partnership for its biosolids management program.

For more information, including laboratory analyses, visit the Web site: louisvillegreen.com.

Eline Library is a hive of activity for children, adults

The St. Matthews/Eline branch is one of the busiest in the Louisville Free Public Library system. Its catalog and database systems can be accessed from the internet through www.lfpl.org.

One of the regularly scheduled events at the library is children's story time Friday mornings at 10:15 and 11. Regular events for adults include a monthly book discussion, a garden series, computer classes and events for retirees.

Hours of operation: M-Th, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; F-S, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information about library programs and volunteering opportunities, and to request materials, call 574-1771 and speak to a staff member.

Friends of the Eline Library was founded in 1987 as a voluntary, non-profit organization that supports and promotes the branch; it plays no role in running the library. The group meets on every second Tuesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. Meetings are held on the second floor of City Hall.

**POLICE
LOG**



Major Kathy Eigelbach has retired from the St. Matthews Police Department. Detective Brad Jeffery, who also has retired, recently received the Chief's Award for solving several high-profile burglaries.

The department has four detectives: Jeff Ball, Tony Ford, Danny Grant and Harvey Hunt.

Crime Tips:

Do not leave valuables in your car where potential thieves may see them. Purses, briefcases, laptop computers, phones, etc., are enticing. If you must leave such items in your vehicle, put them in the trunk or out of sight in a locked car.

Even in cold weather, don't leave your car running with no one in it. It's against the law, and it's an open invitation to an opportunistic thief.

When you're going to be away from your home for some time, call and let police know so they can keep an eye on it for you.