



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.

FEBRUARY 2013

Experience, desire to help equal good service

With nearly 40 years combined experience working for the City of St. Matthews, Ann Cleary, Doris Fisher and Pam Topping can answer almost any question about property and occupational taxes and business licenses. All three ladies enjoy their roles as public servants. "I like helping people find the information they are looking for," said Cleary, the City's Property Tax Specialist. "And any of us are happy to take care of people coming to the window or calling on the telephone."

Cleary's job includes billing, collecting and maintaining records for property taxes. Property taxes are based on an assessment St. Matthews receives from the Jefferson County Property Valuation Administration. Tax bills are mailed out Oct. 1 and must be paid by Dec. 31; however, the City gives a 40% discount if the property taxes are paid by Oct. 31.

When she's not at the office, Cleary enjoys traveling with her daughter who exhibits Chinese Shar-Pei in dog shows across the eastern U.S.

Fisher, whose work experience goes back so far she can remember being on the job when President Kennedy was assassinated, is the City's Business License Clerk. Anyone who owns a business in St. Matthews needs a license. Most license fees are based on

the gross receipts the business earned the previous year. A few businesses, such as attorneys, doctors and real estate brokers, pay a flat fee. Business license fees paid by April 30 will be discounted by 50%.

The business license discount is just one of many great things about living in St. Matthews, according to Fisher. "I don't live in St. Matthews, and I not only pay higher property taxes, but I still have to pay to have my garbage removed," she said.

Fisher enjoys eating out and talking with her family, which includes six grandchildren.

Topping, the City's Occupational Tax

Clerk, has worked for St. Matthews for five years. Before that, she was with the Property Valuation Office for 22 years. Occupational taxes are collected quarterly and are based on the employees' gross wages. "Most people understand the process very well," said

Topping, "and if there are any misunderstandings, I help them with refunds or show them the proper amount to pay."

While she and her husband don't travel a great deal, Topping says they enjoy going to wine festivals or just a Saturday road trip. She also likes to work in her yard and stays busy pruning



(l to r) Pam Topping, Doris Fisher and Ann Cleary enjoy working together to help St. Matthews residents with their taxes and licenses.

bushes and planting flowers.

All three ladies grew up in Louisville, share a love of reading and have fun working together. "Come see us or give us a call at 895-9444 any time," said Topping. "We'll be glad to talk with you."

A Message From

As your St. Matthews City officials, we would like to thank you for allowing us to serve you for another year.

In 2012, the City provided many services including new drainage ditches and sidewalks, leaf and garbage removal, new containers for recycling, railroad quiet zones, park restoration,

street treatments in foul weather, and holiday celebrations in our parks.

Our Police Department has provided free house watches while you were away from home, a presence in our schools for the security of our children and streets and neighborhoods that are safe.

St. Matthews City personnel have been busy answering your questions from their offices and have come to your homes to help assess issues of concern.

We look forward to serving you well in 2013 and to working alongside you to make St. Matthews a great place to live and work.

Trinity champs three times running



TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL

St. Matthews' own Trinity High has won its 10th state football title in 12 years and its 22nd overall. In a 61-7 rout over Pleasure Ridge Park, Trinity was declared the champion on

Dec. 1 for the third year in a row.

At right, Principal Dan Zoeller, Councilwoman Mary Jo Nay and Coach Bob Beatty proudly show their colors.



Easy Being Green

Watch out for that tree!!

Planting and pruning trees is a great way to contribute positively to the environment and to your neighborhood. Some practical advice will help you on your way.

Trees that get too large should be pruned by a certified arborist who understands tree structure. A professional pruning will encourage a strong central leader and discourage heavy side branches that may break off, possibly causing injury or damage. Always have dead branches, know as "widow makers," safely removed.

When planting trees, envision how they will look fully grown and place them so they will not interfere with public ways or utilities. Avoid planting fast growing or brittle trees like Bradford pear, silver maple, water maple or willow in a right-of-way. If planting or removing trees in right-of-way, call St. Matthews Public Works first for suggestions and approval.

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 grass growing season. Questions may be directed to Jim Birch at 899-2518.



Windsong takes pride in neighborhood

No magic wand was wielded nor a “bibbity-bobbity-boo” pronounced to turn crumbling bricks and overgrown plants into the inviting entryway that now graces the Windsong neighborhood off Rudy Lane. Mary Rita McDevitt, a member of the Windsong Neighborhood Association, said the beautiful entrance was the result of many people joining together to donate funds and elbow grease to get the job done.

The project had been discussed for a number of years before McDevitt, along with Sue Spencer, Emily Pruett, Jan Mester and Gail Poe, decided to take action. Last March, the group asked Windy Hills City Council for funds, but since the entrance to Windsong lies in St. Matthews, Windy Hills was unable to help.

The group went to St. Matthews City Council with a three-fold plan:

cut down trees, renovate the entrance and add plants along Rudy Lane. Though St. Matthews could not fund the project, they did agree to help with in-kind labor. “St. Matthews helped us take down crumbling brickwork, pull out old plants and refurbish the ground, among other things,” said McDevitt. The council also agreed to mow the grass along the road, and the Windsong group used those savings to purchase plants with the City’s discounted rate.

Since beginning to work in the fall, the group has taken down some of the columns and old latticework while refurbishing some columns and adding caps to them and



Gail Poe (left) and Emily Pruett paint the columns that make up the entrance to the Windsong subdivision.

aluminum work between them with the help of neighbor and contractor Chris Boehnlein. The columns have been painted, new plants added and a fence put in. The signs were repainted by the original artist, 90-year-old

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Good Neighboring



Furry friends

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.

Street lights

Let’s remember our younger citizens who are crossing streets and waiting on corners for school buses in darkening hours. 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.

Turn off your car

Don’t leave your car running while you’re not in it. It’s not only illegal, but it wastes precious fuel and

pollutes the air along with making it easy for a thief to steal.

Garbage/recycling cans

Garbage cans should not be set out until the day before pickup. Cans should be put away the same day they are emptied. Good neighbors don’t leave them out for days.

Rumpke will pick up your recycling on the weeks beginning with the following dates: Feb. 3, 17; Mar. 3, 17, 31; Apr. 14, 28.

Police Beat

St. Matthews Police: Keeping our schools safe

The tragedy in Newtown, CT, has left many people searching for answers regarding how to ensure the safety of children and teachers in schools. While we don't have all the answers, the St. Matthews Police Department has been an active partner in working with our schools to maintain a safe and secure educational environment. The SMPD has gained a reputation as a law enforcement leader for its proactive approach to addressing school safety issues and for its preparation and training to respond to an incident like the one in Newtown.

As far back as 1996, the SMPD began enhancing its school safety program when Chief Norm Mayer noticed a nationwide trend of increasing crime involving juveniles. To prevent juvenile crime from encroaching on our schools, Chief Mayer, in partnership with Waggener High School, became the first in Kentucky to adopt the School Resource Officer Program. This nationally known program involves placing a specially trained police officer in a school on a full-time basis.

School resource officers have three main functions: law enforcement, guest speaking and advisement. First and foremost, the SRO is a police officer, and the school campus is his or her beat. The SRO answers calls for service, takes offense and accident reports, conducts

investigations and makes arrests or issues citations when necessary. In its secondary roles, the SRO conducts classroom presentations on law enforcement topics and offers law-related advice to students and staff, as well as acting as a mentor and role model for adolescents.

The SMPD's SRO program has had a direct impact on the safety and security of Waggener

Kentucky. Because of his leadership in SRO programs, Chief Mayer received the FBI Director's Community Leadership Award in 2011. The FBI noted that "one of the most important contributions that Chief Mayer has made to the St. Matthews community is one that has also been important throughout Kentucky and its impact may be felt for generations to come."

Not only has the SMPD fostered school safety through its SRO program, but, in 2007, it established a Special Response Team to take on incidents involving active shooters, assaults or other violence where large groups are at risk. Said Chief Mayer, "Our mission is to respond to the scene as quickly as possible and stop the attack. No police officer will stand idly by while children, teachers and staff are being assaulted or killed."

Under the leadership of Lt. Lewis Christopher, the SRT is composed of specially trained and highly motivated patrol officers who will respond to

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St. Matthews Police Department's Special Response Team trains after hours in a local school.

High School. Over the years, police have received information that has led to the prevention of crime in the school, as well as helping solve crimes in St. Matthews and the Louisville Metro area. The SRO program has cultivated an atmosphere where students feel obligated to report criminal activity to police or adults in the school.

Because of its success, the SMPD has been recognized as a "Model Agency" for other SRO programs across the nation and has trained more than 400 police officers through its affiliation with the National Association of School Resource Officers. Today, there are more than 240 officers assigned as SROs in

SMPD Anonymous Tip Line

If you have seen someone or something that seems suspicious, you can give the police a heads up anonymously by calling 498-CLUE (2583), Option 1. To notify the police of an action in progress, please telephone the SMPD directly at 893-9000. You do not have to give your name.

Safe cooking

When choosing the right equipment for cooking, always use cooking equipment tested and approved by a recognized testing facility. Plug microwave ovens and other cooking appliances directly into a wall outlet. Never use an extension cord for a cooking appliance – it can overload the circuit and cause a fire.

Watch what you heat

The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking. Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen, even for a short period of time, turn off the stove.

Clothing on fire

If your clothes catch fire, remember to Stop, Drop and

Roll. Stop immediately, drop to the ground and cover your face with your hands. Roll over and over or back and forth to put out the fire. Immediately cover the burn with cool water for three to five minutes and cover with a clean, dry cloth. Don't apply creams, ointments, sprays or other home remedies. Seek medical attention.

Code Words

So you arrive home late from work and someone has taken the parking spot you usually use. You know you can't park next to the fire hydrant, but you ask yourself if it would be OK to park next to the stop sign. Not sure? Allow the Code Enforcement Department to explain the proper placement of parked vehicles.

If you don't have a driveway, you'll want to know that no vehicle may be parked in the grass in front of a house. This is prohibited by the

zoning regulations and is consistent with other cities throughout Jefferson County.

As for parking on the street, a vehicle parked along a road must have its right-hand side toward the curb or edge of pavement. This means that a vehicle may not be placed perpendicularly or at an angle to the roadway.

In addition, no vehicle may be placed on a sidewalk, in front of a public or private driveway or within 30 feet (on either side of the

roadway) approaching a stop sign. This means that no portion of the vehicle may extend over, above or into these locations.

The Code Enforcement Department receives one or two complaints each month regarding parking issues. There are a few places in St. Matthews where street parking is not allowed at all. So if you're unsure whether you are parking legally, feel free to contact the City of St Matthews and set your mind at ease.

Windsong

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Windsong resident Bud Kamer. A light on the old signs was too bright and shone in the windows of some of the residents. It was replaced with a smaller light on a timer.

"None of this could have been done without the funds raised from neighbors," said McDevitt. During a campaign dubbed "Rewind Windsong", \$5,115 was collected from 51%

of the residents between September and December. The entrance committee plans to use the remainder of the money to purchase plants to enhance Rudy Lane this spring.



Historical St. Matthews

Historical Society programs are held the second Sunday of the month at 2 p.m. at St. Matthews City Hall. There is no meeting in May. Upcoming programs are as follows:

March 10

Pete Browning: Louisville Slugger

Mike Zanone will interpret the life of Louisville native Pete Browning. Browning was an important figure in baseball's history and is probably best

remembered today as the inspiration behind the Hillerich & Bradsby company's popular "Louisville Slugger" line of baseball bats.

April 14

A Sally Keith Memorial Lecture

Jim Holmberg, curator of special collections at the Filson Historical Society, will present an original, commissioned lecture exploring the Lyman C. Draper Manuscripts. The talk will encompass research into

this vast historical collection with emphasis on Draper's accumulation from Kentucky and the Beargrass area.

AHHS Meetings

The Alexander Hamilton Historical Society of Kentucky meets on the third Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m. on the second floor of St. Matthews City Hall. For more information regarding programs, call Lynn Olympia at 897-0585.

Check It Out

At St. Matthews/Eline library, there are programs for everyone. There are Storytimes for babies, toddlers and preschoolers. Younger children might enjoy the Elephant and Piggie Party while older children can learn about Great Artists. Teens and adults can find anything from

a lecture on hiking or movie discussion groups to computer classes or tutoring sessions. With dozens of programs, there's something for everyone. To learn more, visit the St. Matthews page at www.lfpl.org and click on Programs at St. Matthews or call them at 574-1771.

Police beat

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active shooter incidents at schools, malls and hospitals within the community. As the SRT's training and expertise was developed, its role expanded to respond to situations involving barricaded persons and hostages and to serving dangerous search or arrest warrants. The SRT is specially equipped with rifles, ballistic shields, tactical armor, helmets, tear gas launchers and breaching tools for entering buildings.

SRT Training Coordinator Tony Cobaugh, a former SWAT commander with LMPD, regularly conducts

exercises in schools throughout St. Matthews. Many of these exercises incorporate school personnel, ensuring a cohesive response to emergency situations.

The St. Matthews Police Department is currently establishing another campaign to enhance school safety. With this initiative, officers will visit schools on their beats and will be available for law enforcement-related classroom presentations. The presence of police officers on campus will enhance the sense of security and help build rapport among students, staff and police.

Additionally, the visits will enable police officers to become familiar with the people who make up and are associated with the school community.

The SMPD continues to be proactive, partnering with school administrators in their effort to improve the safety and security of our schools. Chief Mayer assures the community that the men and women of the St. Matthews Police Department are dedicated to keeping schools as places "...where teachers feel safe to teach and students feel safe to learn."

Letter from your Parks Committee

The St. Matthews Parks Committee would like to assure citizens that there is a sound plan for the future of the community's four main parks (Brown, Community, Draut & Warwick).

In March of 2008 the City asked for help from the state of Kentucky to see what direction it should take to help our park system. We worked with them to implement a "Forest Stewardship Plan" that was drafted by the State of Kentucky Department of Forestry and the State of Kentucky Department of Wildlife.

This plan identified the overabundance of many non-native plant species, especially bush honeysuckle. These invasive species take sunlight, nutrients and water from the native trees and plants, hindering their growth. The bush honeysuckle has taken over most of the forest floor leaving minimal room for native species. Other non-native species identified were Chinese privet, Japanese honeysuckle, multiflora rose and winter creeper. The City decided to eradicate the non-native species in each park over several years. Removing the non-native species will help to stimulate growth from the native understory containing spice bush, coral berry, dogwood and redbud trees.

Non-native plant eradication is now complete in Warwick Park, Community Park and, most recently in 2012, Brown Park. The Brown Park project not only removed the non-native species but included planting over 150 new trees and major work to improve Beargrass Creek. The City is currently beginning a three-phase removal and replanting in Draut Park on Bowling Boulevard.

Some of the City's newest residents, a family of beavers, are having their affect on the plan. The beavers' lodge and dam are located in the wetlands area of Draut Park along Bowling Boulevard. The City has painted some trees in the park with a paint designed to discourage the beavers from damaging the trees. Several wildlife professionals have been consulted to try and find a solution short of relocating them.

Mayor Bowling and the City Council believe the efforts the City of St. Matthews is currently making will greatly improve the future of our parks.

Stuart Monohan
Committee Chairman

Your Works at Work



Potholes

Use the Call St. Matthews system to report any potholes at 638-4STM (4786), Opt 2, Opt. 2.

Snow removal

The city of St. Matthews operates a comprehensive snow removal program. Naturally, main streets

will be cleared first and then residential areas. During these times, residents are asked to park vehicles off the roadway to allow snow plows and other equipment to maneuver safely.

Tree planting

Homeowners who request the City to plant a tree along a right-of-way will be responsible for its maintenance. The species of the tree to be planted is not the choice of the homeowner but is selected with the advice of an arborist. For more information, call City Hall at 895-9444.

Improvements

Your tax dollars continue to improve the neighborhoods of St.

Matthews. Following is a list of some of the improvements recently made.

- The drainage work on Ridgeway and Westport, including new pipe and catch basins, is complete except for a few ditches. These are scheduled to be finished in the spring.
- The project to rebuild the playground at Community Center Park is progressing and will be completed when all materials arrive.
- The drainage improvement on Briarwood Road is progressing with the installation of the main pipe. Yard drains are to follow with expected completion at the end of April.

City of St. Matthews
3940 Grandview Avenue
P.O. Box 7097
St. Matthews, KY 40257-0097

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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.

E-CONNECTION

To submit your email address to
receive important St. Matthews
updates, visit the city website at
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