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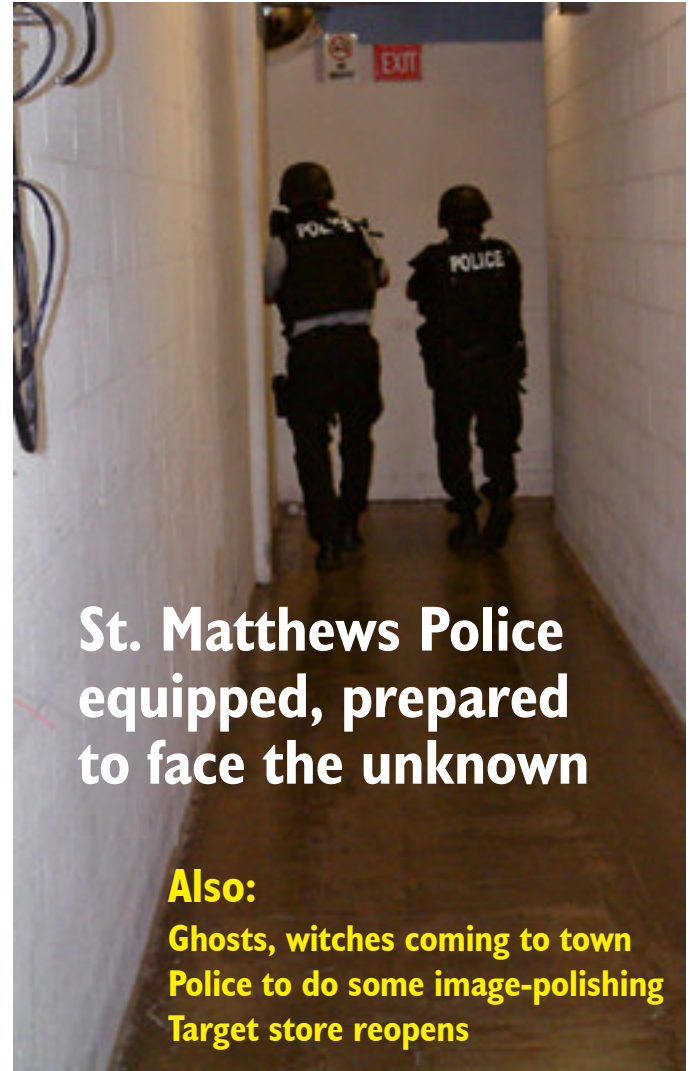


Living

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

October 2009

St. Matthews



**St. Matthews Police
equipped, prepared
to face the unknown**

Also:

**Ghosts, witches coming to town
Police to do some image-polishing
Target store reopens**

City police department welcomes 2 new officers

The St. Matthews Police Department has hired two new patrolmen: Barbara Shepard and Jeffrey Hancock, both former Metro Louisville Police Department officers. Police Chief Col. Norman Mayer recently introduced the new hires to the city council.

Shepard, hired effective July 13, is a Mercy Academy graduate with a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice from the University of Louisville. Hancock, hired effective Aug. 31, is a graduate of Trinity High School and has a B.S. in police administration from U of L. Hancock also was a St. Matthews policeman from 1994-1998.

The hirings restore the SMPD to a force of 35 sworn officers after the retirements this summer of Major Kathy Eigelbach and Detective Brad Jeffrey, both of whom had served the St. Matthews department for more than 20 years.



Police will be doing some image-polishing

The St. Matthews Police Department has spent about \$15,000 in federal law-enforcement incentive money to buy a system that greatly improves the performance of video surveillance systems.

The dTective image-clarification software, a product of Ocean Systems, is considered the industry standard, with more than 1,500 programs in operation and widespread testing in the courtroom. The city also has invested in necessary hardware upgrades.

The dTective system captures and

enhances video and still images; prints stills from video tape; and enables the operator to zoom and highlight important details and to integrate case notes with images.



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**

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

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



Doggonit: The leash law applies to all dogs, even the best-behaved. If your dog barks incessantly at night or early in the day, take steps to silence him for the sake of your neighbors. And when you take him out to do his doody, take along a plastic bag so you can do your duty.



Please wait until the night before pickup before setting trash,

yard waste, recycling, etc., at the curb. St. Matthews homeowners must maintain the grass alleyways behind their homes; i.e., keep them cut and clear of obstructions.

Keeping them trimmed up discourages rodents and provides sometimes-crucial access for utility companies.

Westport Road Target reopens

The landmark Target store on Westport Road near Hubbards Lane, widely mourned early this year when it was shut down, then torn down, has been reborn in a shiny new incarnation on the same site.

The store, officially reopened on Oct. 12, has been scaled up (from 129,000 square feet to 143,000), and taken upscale, with a sleek new modern look, more glass and gloss, wider aisles, and several new features, including a Starbucks coffee shop, an expanded electronics department, and a new cosmetics section called “Destination Beauty.”

Also new are the additions of fresh meat, produce and bread to the more comprehensive food sections, part of Target’s new “PFresh” concept, the P standing for prototype. No fresh goods will actually be prepared in the store, officials say, but they will be shipped in fresh daily.

The whole complex, including a Kroger banquet facility, takes up 153,000 square feet. The St. Matthews council approved a waiver in June that will permit the store to have only 431 parking spaces, 22 fewer than normally would be required for a facility of this size.

Target opened 26 new or rebuilt stores on Oct. 12 that it says will create 500 jobs nationwide. The first store opened in 1962; the corporation now has more than 1,700 in 49 states.

Two timely tax tips

No. 1: St. Matthews property-tax bills have been sent out. If you haven’t received yours (it may have gone to your mortgage holder), call City Hall to have one sent right away. Remember: If you pay in full by the end of October, you’ll earn a 40 percent discount.

No. 2: Make sure St. Matthews gets its share of your insurance taxes. The tax code “1616” is on all policies on which St. Matthews is supposed to get a portion of the state tax. Policies are coded by Zip code, and people in some St. Matthews Zips may be paying Louisville (0031) or Lyndon (0252) in error. All money paid wrongly can be recovered. But there’s a catch: The code number doesn’t appear on your copy of the policy; you’ll have to call your agent to check.

City officials recently launched a multi-year effort to clear non-native (non-indigenous) plant species out of Community Center Park. When non-native species move in, they can threaten the survival of species native to the habitat. A good example of an invasive non-native species in Kentucky is Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera Japonica*.)

Special police unit aims to be prepared for mass violence, worst-case scenarios

by Sgt. Lewis H. Christopher

The St. Matthews Police Department’s Special Response Team (SRT) was formed in 2007 when Police Chief Norman Mayer decided that the department needed to upgrade its ability to prevent and respond to potential threats of mass violence in the city.

There had been no specific threats against St. Matthews targets, but Mayer was aware that the city has a number of schools and churches, hospitals and large retail facilities—often-crowded locations that have been sites of violence in other cities.

The SRT was started from scratch with volunteer officers who were evaluated on experience, physical fitness and performance records. Since then, most team members have completed Louisville Metro’s Basic and Intermediate SWAT schools and a number of other training programs.

While still meant to serve as first-responders in mass violence situations, the SRT now also responds in cases of barricaded persons, hostage-takings and the serving of dangerous search or arrest warrants. The SRT has special equipment such as rifles, ballistic shields, tactical armor and helmets, tear-gas launchers, weapons that fire less-lethal rounds, and breaching tools for entering buildings.

The SRT team is composed of two sergeants (one the group’s commander and tactical-team leader, the other the command-post coordinator), and 12 officers. Seven of the officers form an entry team, the other five a containment team.

Several team members are instructors in firearms, taser, SWAT tactics, defensive tactics and less-lethal munitions. The team trains as a unit at least twice a month.

The SRT is looking for continual performance improvement. Some members have already used their specialized equipment and training to handle several potentially disastrous situations.



The St. Matthews Police Department’s Special Response Team trains as a unit at least twice a month.

Basement flooding? MSD can help you put a thumb in the dike

If you have a problem with basement flooding, the Metropolitan Sewer District believes it has a solution.

MSD offers two services under its Plumbing Modification Program: preventing basement backups; and removing improper connections to the sewer system. So far the program has helped more than 9,000 Louisville-area homeowners with basement flooding and improved water quality by reducing sewage overflows to Jefferson County streams. The services are strictly voluntary, and in most cases MSD does the work at no cost to the homeowner.

The basement flooding program is open to those who have experienced such problems and those who live in low-lying areas that are prone to such flooding which includes virtually all of St. Matthews. The connection-removal program is for anyone with improper connections such as sump pumps and downspouts.

To learn more about how MSD can help you, call 587-0603.

Fall back

St. Matthews curbside leaf pickups will begin this year in the last week of October or the first week of November, depending on how quickly the leaves start falling. Pickup crews will start south of Shelbyville Road, then move to areas north of it, and finish in a west-to-east sweep. Signs will be posted before pickups begin.

Rake leaves to the front edge of your property, but don't cover catch basins or fill drainage ditches.

Leaves can be included in trash pickups, but must be in biodegradable or clear plastic bags marked "Yard Waste Only." Yard-waste stickers are available free at City Hall.



Don't get the drift

St. Matthews runs a comprehensive, city-wide snow-removal service. To keep it so, remember: When it snows, park vehicles off-road, out of the snowplows' way. You (and your neighbors) will be glad you did.

Halloween festival to feature fun, food, fright



St. Matthews trick-or-treaters and their ghoulie-and-ghostie parents are dressing up for the 11th annual St. Matthews Halloween Festival in Brown Park on Saturday, Oct. 24.

Last year more than 1,600 caped, masked, gossamer-winged and bejeweled boys and girls took part in the free, city-sponsored event, many with their grown-ups-in tow and in costume.

Again this year, plans call for music, games, bouncies, magic, a petting zoo, the Tumblebus, face-painting, caricaturists, hayrides, tricks and treats. About 35 businesses and organizations will be there to offer treats and surprises.

The fun begins at 11 a.m. Trick-or-treaters will start lining up at 11:30 to make their way to the park pavilion; they must be in line before 1 p.m. The event ends at 2.

Free parking will be available at the doctors' building across the street from Baptist Hospital East.

City, business group to say, 'Let there be light'

The 19th annual "Light Up St. Matthews" celebration on Sunday, Nov. 29 will ignite at 6 p.m., when thousands of holiday lights are switched on at Brown Park.

The City of St. Matthews and the St. Matthews Area Business Association co-sponsor the event, which marks the official start of the Christmas-New Year season.

The festival, which kicks off at 4, will feature seasonal music by Radio Disney, letters to Santa,

pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, the posting of letters to Santa, horse-drawn carriage rides, train rides, a petting zoo, a troupe of clowns, strolling carolers, and cookies, hot chocolate and apple cider.

Parking at Brown Park will be reserved for the handicapped, but free parking and trolley service will be provided at the Baptist Hospital East doctors' office building, St. Matthews Elementary School and Waggener High School.