



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.

NOVEMBER 2012

Ruf, Cleary share code of cooperation

When a concerned citizen calls City Hall to report a veritable jungle taking over what used to be their neighbor's yard, the dynamic duo of Jack Ruf and Daryl Cleary swing into action. Credentialed but not caped and candid rather than crusading, the Code Enforcement duo says their mission is to help property owners think of a solution when they are in violation of a code.

Ruf described the sequence of events that follows a call made to the department. After making a visit to the site to determine whether there is a violation of an ordinance, he or Cleary make personal contact with the property owner. "We show the owner our IDs, explain the

situation to them and give them an opportunity to suggest a solution; if the solution isn't reasonable, we give a deadline," said Ruf. "For example, if the owner's grass is higher than eight inches, he or she may say they'll have it mowed by Friday." When the deadline is reached, the enforcement officers re-inspect the site. If the situation has not been resolved, a written notice is issued to the owner to let them know what the consequences of non-compliance will be.

The pair agrees their role is not to punish residents but to find a remedy to the problem. "Everyone envisions St. Matthews as a nice place to live and most residents

have a common idea of what that means -- our goal is to help keep that common vision a reality," said Ruf. He continued, "It's great when I can work with folks and give them news they don't necessarily want, but still find them appreciative. More than 80% of the time folks are happy to comply."

Both Ruf and Cleary cut their teeth on code enforcement with Louisville Metro. Ruf retired after more than 30 years with the Planning Commission before joining St. Matthews' team in 2008. Cleary previously worked with Louisville Metro Inspections, Permits and Licenses and has been with St. Matthews for just a few months.

Despite being with the department a short time, Cleary said he's happy to be working where he spent time playing as a child. "I get a good feeling from cleaning up or avoiding a blight in the neighborhood -- making it better," he said. "It's a job where you often see results in less than 30 days because these are a good group of people. They have a history here of many generations of like-minded people."

Any resident may look up a code if concerned about a possible violation. On the St. Matthews City website at www.stmatthews.org, click on City Services, Ordinances (under Government at the bottom of the page), then the link provided. Enter a search such as "nuisances" to go to the correct chapter.

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Dynamic Duo: Daryl Cleary and Jack Ruf share a vision with area residents to keep St. Matthews a great place to live.

A Message From

Ahhhh...Fall. Leaves wafting on a cool breeze, orange pumpkins, and because you live in St. Matthews, a trick to give adults a special treat.

As a property owner in St. Matthews, your city officials have once again approved a 40% discount on all property taxes paid or postmarked on or before October 31, 2012. If you have not received your tax bill, please contact the city offices

immediately so as not to miss this discount.

As we draw nearer to the holiday shopping season, give some thought when doing your shopping to supporting your local businesses. Shopping local not only saves on high priced fuel and environmental carbon emissions but shows our local businesses you care that they chose St. Matthews, a great place to live, work and play.

As always, the mayor and city council are interested in what you have on your mind. All citizens are encouraged to contact city hall during business hours or use the 24/7 Automated Information System, "Call St. Matthews" 638-4STM (4786), regarding any question or concern you may have about services or other matters within our city.

Washburn Quiet Zone



Plans for the Washburn Avenue Quiet Zone, approved by the Federal Railroad

Administration in May, continue to progress. The zone will ensure that the majority of residents living near railroad crossings from Chenoweth Lane to Washburn Avenue will not

be subjected to the loud noise of train whistles. Final plans were due to be submitted in late September to Metro Public Works.

Louisville Metro is in the process of purchasing additional easements for the new construction, after which St. Matthews will enter into an agreement with CSX and a roadway contractor for construction. Finalizing

the construction contract and the mobilization of CSX may take several months after the agreement is executed.

When finished, the railroad crossing will include new barrier medians on both sides of the crossing, road improvements and upgrades to signal and communication equipment.

Easy Being Green

Save energy: For security applications, use motion-sensor lights; they save energy and also draw attention to intruders.

Deicing: In the winter months consider using non-toxic deicing substances such as clean cat litter, sand or fireplace and stove ash to prevent chemical hazardous waste. Chemicals in toxic deicing substances can be hazardous to your pets, trees and shrubs and the environment at large. Antifreeze that leaks from car engines and chemical snow melts on driveways and roads can pollute surface waters and groundwater through the soil.

Batteries: Keep used batteries out of the landfills by recycling them. Batteries of any kind, from large car batteries to the smallest, such as AAA's, can be recycled by dropping them by Batteries Plus during regular business hours. Batteries Plus is conveniently located in the Shelbyville Road Plaza.

Holiday tips: Real trees are renewable, recyclable and biodegradable. To keep your carbon footprint to a minimum, look for trees that are grown organically and as close to home as possible.

Recycle your natural Halloween decorations and Christmas trees by setting these at the curbside on your regular scheduled pick up date as yard waste.

Set holiday lights and displays on timers to save electrical energy.

Use light-emitting diode—or "LED"—holiday light strings to reduce the cost of decorating your home for the winter holidays.



Seasons Greetings

NOVEMBER 2012

15th annual Halloween Festival to be held Saturday, Oct. 27

Calling all little ghosts and goblins! Come join the annual Halloween Festival in Brown Park!

The event, which is free to the public, will run from 11 a.m. until



2 p.m. Parking is available at the Baptist Hospital

East office building off Kresge Way or Waggener High School off Browns Lane.

From 11:30-1:30, children will trick-or-treat starting at the pavilion and proceeding through the "Haunted Forest" along paths with more than 40 booths set up by area organizations and featuring favorite childhood mascots.

Other features of the celebration include an 18-foot slide and a Bounce inflatable, entertaining

games, a D.J. playing Halloween music, the Dance Sensation Kids, a hayride and a petting zoo. A fire truck and police car will be on display.

The event, presented by the City of St. Matthews and the St. Matthews Area Chamber of Commerce, is sponsored by Jewish Hospital and Republic Bank. Last year's happening drew an estimated crowd of 4,000 children and adults, a record the Chamber hopes to break this year says Chamber Director Glenn Knight.



Republic Bank



BAPTIST HOSPITAL EAST

Light Up St. Matthews Dec. 1

You will feel just like a Who in Whoville as you join hands and hearts with your neighbors kicking off the holiday

season at Light Up St. Matthews. This year's celebration, sponsored by Baptist Hospital East, takes place Saturday, Dec. 1, from 4-6 p.m. at Browns Park. Parking is available at the Baptist Hospital East office building off Kresge Way.

Bring the entire family to experience all the fun, including pictures with Santa, coloring contest awards, train and carriage rides, carolers and other entertainment. Cookies, hot chocolate, coffee and cider will be served. The park will light up at 6 p.m.!

Community Pride Breakfast

A Community Pride breakfast will take place Dec. 12, from 7-9 a.m. at The Olmstead. Doors open at 6:45 a.m. For more information, call 899-2523.



Code Words

Are you planning an addition to your property? Remodeling? Constructing a new building? Certain steps must be taken before any construction is begun.

Detailed plans and specifications for the construction of new buildings or for an addition to or remodeling of any existing building must be submitted to and approved by the St. Matthews city engineer or his designee. A letter of compliance will be issued before construction can begin. The application for the letter of compliance is available at City Hall on the third floor, and the

request must be in person as the requester's signature is needed at the time of issuance. There is no fee for the letter. Depending on the extent of the construction, a building permit must also be obtained from Metro Codes and Regulations under the Kentucky Building Code.

Before St. Matthews can issue a letter of compliance for the construction, all contractors involved, including general and subcontractors, must be identified and have a current business license from the City of St. Matthews. (This is a

separate license from the Louisville Revenue Commission and the registration required by Metro Codes and Regulations.) The application for a business license is available at City Hall or online at our website. An initial license costs \$25, payable by check or cash. Licenses must be renewed annually, and the fee is based upon the previous year's gross receipts.

For further information or answers to any questions, contact City Hall at 895-9444.

Police Beat

Chief Mayer receives award

The Kentucky Association of School Resource Officers bestowed its highest honor, Presidents Award, on St. Matthews Police Department Chief Norm Mayer at a ceremony in June held at the National



Left to right: Chief Norman Mayer, Warren County Deputy Glenn Woodard.

Corvette Museum in Bowling Green. The presentation took place during the Safe Schools and

Communities Conference. Chief Mayer received the award for establishing the School Resource Officer program in Kentucky.

Free house watch

St. Matthews Police offers a free house watch for times when residents are away from home for holidays, vacations, hospital stays, funerals, etc. For more information, contact the SMPD at 893-9000 or access the Call St. Matthews info line at 638-4STM (4786), option 4.

Stop signs

The Police Department wants to remind all vehicle operators that stopping at stop signs is not optional. All vehicle drivers and bicyclists must come to a complete stop.

Anti-theft tips

- Don't leave your car running while you're not in it. Not only is it a car thief's dream, it is also illegal.
- Prevent auto break-ins by keeping valuables in the trunk of your vehicle when shopping or when your car is parked in lots and driveways. Covering items with towels or blankets may only pique a thief's curiosity. Make sure your car doors are locked.
- At home, don't pile presents under your Christmas tree in front of a window. This only serves as an advertisement to burglars, giving them an open invitation to break in.

Crime Buzz

Anonymous tips

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.

The St. Matthews Police Department also reminds you to

use the website IDThisPerson.com to help identify subjects in an anonymous format. If you help ID someone, you may receive a \$25 reward.

E-CONNECTION

The city is building a collection of email addresses for residents who would like to be notified of street closings, snow removal, leaf collection dates, storm debris pickups, city newsletters, etc. Interested residents should submit the form included in tax bills, visit the city website at www.stmatthew.org or telephone city offices. Email addresses will not be shared with other parties.

Rumpke Holidays



Garbage will be picked up on regularly scheduled days with the exception of the weeks containing the following holidays: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Garbage will be picked up the day after these holidays and could remain irregular all week. If

the holiday falls on Saturday or Sunday, the weekly schedule will not be affected.

Stickers

FREE Yard Waste stickers for your designated yard waste cans are available at City Hall.

Maps

City maps are available for \$1.25.

Some of the same reasons we love winter – the cheer of holidays and the warmth of the hearth – can contribute to making winter the season with the most home fires.

The St. Matthews and Lyndon fire districts offer these holiday safety tips to prevent home fires:

- Keep live trees well watered. Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up longer than two weeks.

Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood-burning stove.

- Inspect holiday lights each year for visible damage. Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Do not leave holiday lights on when you are not home.

- All decorations should be nonflammable or flame-retardant and placed away from heat vents.

- Ensure that trees and other holiday decorations do not block an exit way.

- Never put wrapping paper in the fireplace.

- If you do use lit candles, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down. Never leave the house with candles burning.

- Holiday decorations can contribute to the increased risk of fire in winter. Follow safety tips to maintain a fire-safe home this winter season.

Eline Library



- The City presented Susan Irving a proclamation for her 20 years at the Eline Library at the council meeting on August 14 (*at left with Mayor Bowling*).

- Whether they read a picture book or a graphic novel, 23,000 area children and teens returned to school better readers thanks to the Library's annual Summer Reading Program, presented by The Library

Foundation. Congratulations to everyone who read for fun over the summer.

- St. Matthews Library has a host of programs for all ages, such as Face Book For Grown Ups, Anime Club, ACT Test Study Guide and Story Time. Visit the Library Events Calendar at lfpl.org for many other programs and specific dates and times.

Code of cooperation

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Particularly at this time of year the "accumulation of rubbish" under Code 94.03 is a relevant code since it can refer to piles of leaves. St. Matthews will begin vacuuming leaves at the end of October. When leaves are not raked, piles can lead to rodent infestation.

One problem the department has difficulty with is vacant or abandoned properties. "Often a bank assumes the financial responsibility for a property but does not take title," said Ruf. "The bank does not accept responsibility for the upkeep of the property, and the former owner is gone. When

residents call to complain that the property isn't being kept up, if we cannot find a responsible party, we have the option to send our maintenance crew to take care of the problem, document the expense and file a lien on the property."

Code enforcement also includes zoning codes, which relate to use of land, location of buildings and parking areas. Besides code enforcement, Ruf and Cleary are responsible for sign permits and violations related to signage. "Most of these rules have been on the books for many years, but we are

always reviewing issues that come before us to determine if amendments are needed," said Ruf.

Both Cleary and Ruf emphasized that keeping the neighborhoods up to the standard that St. Matthews' residents have come to expect is a cooperative effort. "We represent the city, and our job is to work with people to come up with a positive outcome for everyone," said Ruf.

No arch villains here – only good guys who need a helping hand.

Historical St. Matthews

Historical Society programs are held on the second Sunday of the month at 2 p.m. at St. Matthews City Hall. Upcoming programs are as follows:

November 11

The Historical Society will continue its commemoration of the bicentennial of the War of 1812 with a portrayal of First Lady Dolley Madison by a performer from the Frazier Museum.

January 13

Louisville street names such as Jefferson, Guthrie, Preston, etc.,

represent several of the famous names in the city of Louisville. This presentation by local history buff and preservationist Steve Wiser will bring to life the personalities memorialized in our road names. The early surveying of our falls area, and subsequent development of the city, can be traced by following these urban streets and their names.

February 10

Mel Arnold will make a presentation on Kentucky-born Jefferson Davis, a highly effective and respected soldier,

planter, senator and U.S. Secretary of War. Davis was the last Southern senator to give up hope for a compromise that would save the Union, which he believed should never be divided.

AHHS Meetings

The Alexander Hamilton Historical Society of Kentucky (AHHS) 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 897-0585.

Your Works at Work

Leaf Pickup

The St. Matthews leaf collection program begins late October and runs through mid-November. Crews will begin pickup in the areas south of US 60, Shelbyville Road then move to the areas north of US 60,



Shelbyville Road in a west to east sweep. Dated notification signs will be posted in each area prior to pickup.

To participate in the leaf program, place piles of leaves at the edge of the front of the property. Due to safety issues,

do not place leaves in the street, fill drainage ditches or cover catch basin drains. It is important that the drainage systems not be blocked should the area receive rain during this time.

Workers will make one pass through the city and a second pass if the weather permits. If your leaves are missed during pickup, contact City Hall.

Snow Removal

The city of St. Matthews operates a comprehensive snow removal program. After any significant snowfall, all city streets are cleared as a matter of course. Naturally, main thoroughfares come first; once they are cleared, residential streets are systematically treated. During these times residents are asked to park vehicles off the roadway to allow

snow plows and other equipment to maneuver safely.

Tree Planting

The City will be planting trees in easement areas around St. Matthews this winter and spring. Homeowners who request a tree be planted along a right-of-way will be responsible for the tree's maintenance. The species of tree to be planted is not the choice of the homeowner but is selected with the advice of an arborist. If you would like to have a tree planted in the easement area in front of your property, call City Hall at 895-9444.





Brown Park trail blazers honored

Next time you decide to walk the paths in Brown Park, check out the plaque that commemorates your ability to do so.

Thirty years ago, five Boy Scouts from Troop #315 under the leadership of Phil Bills cleared a walking path on property where a house had burned. Today, Brown Park is one of the busiest in St. Matthews,

with patrons visiting from sunrise to sunset.

As Bills tells it, the Scouts – Kurt Dobbs, Jeff Fulkerson, Matt Jones, Tally Lambert, and Cliff Whalin – asked permission to clear the land as an Eagle Scout project. The plot of land was divided into segments,

with each scout responsible to clear a section. The City of St. Matthews provided mulch to cover the intersecting paths after they were cleared. Eventually, asphalt was laid.

Several of the scouts, now grown men, were in attendance at a recent Council meeting where Mayor Bowling presented a plaque to commemorate their hard work during the winter and early spring of 1982. The plaque will be affixed to the Brown Park pavilion.

Good Neighboring

Street lights

Working street lights are especially important now that kids 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, telephone the Call St. Matthews line 638-4STM (4786) and select option 2, then option 4.

Sidewalks

Sidewalks are built for the use of pedestrians. When they are blocked, pedestrians are forced to walk in the street or on someone's private property. Neither cars nor motorcycles should be parked, either partially or fully, on sidewalks or in such a way that

blocks a sidewalk from use. Likewise, debris should not be stacked on sidewalks. To report a damaged sidewalk 24/7, access the "Call St. Matthews" service line at 498-2255 and select option 4.

Parking

Vehicles should be properly parked in driveways, not on easements or right-of-way; many streets are narrow. If you or a guest must park on the street, the rule is two tires on the pavement, two off.

Junk removal

Cleaning out your basement or garage for that annual Fall yard sale? Note that Rumpke is only required to pick up one large item each week at the time of your regular garbage pickup. If you have several items to dispose of,

Stream restoration finished

The stream restoration work at Brown Park has been completed. In the next few months the city will implement phase two to replant the park with native plants and make other park updates (*see before and after pictures below*).



please contact Rumpke directly at 568-3800 to schedule a special junk pick up and be advised of additional charges that may apply.

Winter neighbors



When it snows, remove cars or other obstructions from the

streets so that Works Department snowplow drivers can get through.

After heavy snowfalls and when sidewalks are icy, St. Matthews residents must carry garbage cans out to the street for pickup.

Be a good neighbor and clear snowy sidewalks.

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.

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