

# ST. MATTHEWS NEWS

Autumn 2008



## City Hall

3940 Grandview Avenue  
P.O. Box 7097  
St. Matthews, KY 40257-0097  
Phone 502-895-9444

### Automated lines:

**Call St. Matthews  
638-4STM (4786)**

Administration Info Line  
855-7624 (SMCH)

City Services Info Line  
498-2255 (CALL)

News & Info Line  
855-4636 (INFO)

Police Tip & Info Line  
498-2583 (CLUE)

## Mayor

Bernard Bowling Jr.

## Council members

Arthur K. Draut  
Frank Flynn  
Stuart Monohan  
Mary Jo Nay  
Martha Schade  
Richard Tonini  
Tony Weiter  
Patrick Wissing

## City Hall hours

Mon.-Thurs., 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.;  
Fri., 7:30 a.m.-11:30 p.m.

## Council meetings

Open sessions City Hall, 2nd &  
4th Tuesdays of month, 7 p.m.



In the wake of a recent storm that felled mighty trees like matchsticks, St. Matthews crews were clearing streets and cleaning up debris before the winds died down.

## Why they call it a 'works' department

A Sept. 14 storm packing heavy winds wreaked havoc on traffic in St. Matthews with as many as 50 trees and limbs on city streets.

Crews from the city Works and Construction departments, with the help of five prisoner-volunteers from a halfway house, quickly went to work removing debris and re-opening streets, starting with a huge tree that blocked Breckenridge Lane between Hycliffe and Warner avenues.

"We were expecting some wind, but nobody was predicting anything like what we got," St. Matthews Councilman Rick Tonini said. "It was sort of a shock."

City Hall was without power for eight days. Police and other officials communicated by radio and cell phone until power was restored, while a natural-gas-powered generator was used to provide power for the dispatch office.

A Vermeer wood chipper the city had used without problems for 20

years chose the night of the storm to blow a bearing. Officials found a brand-new chipper for sale in Brooks, KY, bought it for \$26,500 and put it to work.

(The old chipper was fixed at a cost of \$1,300 and is now the city's backup chipper.)

Another \$2,200 was spent for needed rental equipment.

As the storm died down, the city was filled with the noises of chain saws, backhoes and dump trucks.

"I'm proud of the outstanding work those crews did," Tonini said. "I think they did one heck of a job. ... If they didn't, we'd still be picking up limbs."

Workers put in 12 hours on the day of the storm, then settled into a routine of working 12-hour days for more than two weeks. Over that time, the city paid for nearly 800 hours of overtime.

Tonini said Mayor Bernard

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## St. Matthews waits for lights to come on

The 18th annual “Light Up St. Matthews” holiday celebration on Nov. 30 will come to a boil at 6 p.m., when thousands of lights will be 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 holiday season.

The festival will feature seasonal music by Radio Disney and Waggener Traditional High School’s band and concert choir, pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, the posting of letters to Santa, horse-drawn carriage rides, train rides, a petting zoo, Ronald McDonald and a troupe of other clowns, strolling carolers, and cookies, hot chocolate and 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.



Sherry Britton of Cornalia Way made a deposit in the new pet-waste receptacle at Brown Park, as her dogs, Nigel and Oliver, looked on. The containers have been installed in all of St. Matthews’ “walking parks” — Brown, Draut, Community Center and Warwick.



St. Matthews recently finished a \$210,000 revitalization of Holzheimer Park at Westport Road and Chenoweth Lane. The new “cityscape,” named for Henry Holzheimer, a onetime owner of the site, features benches, a stately clock, fresh landscaping and a contemplative atmosphere.

## *“If it’s on the ground, it’s in your water!”*

That’s the theme of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet’s new campaign to make citizens of the commonwealth recognize the importance of the state’s clean storm-water program.

St. Matthews recently had its storm-runoff systems surveyed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The report on the survey is not in, but it’s not too soon for us to begin taking the problem seriously.

These are the systems that carry rainwater away from our homes, businesses, parks and streets. They also carry everything they encounter on the way — paint, motor oil, pesticides, animal waste — into our creeks and rills, and ultimately to the Ohio River, the source of our drinking water.

Here are a few modest steps we can take to keep our water — which might be our most precious resource — clean and safe.

No. 1: Don’t dump paint, oil and the like down the storm-sewer grate in the street. That may seem obvious,



## **Easy being green**

but common sense is not as common as we like to think.

No. 2: Be careful in using lawn fertilizers and herbicides. Most people who apply these chemicals use more than necessary, more than the directions recommend. But more is not always better. These toxic chemicals build up in our lawns and get washed downstream, where they sicken waterways and kill many life forms that depend on clean water.

We all have to do our part to keep our water clean.

In future articles I’ll be pointing out some other simple steps we can all take to protect our waterways. If each of us does his or her part, the community can only benefit.

— *The first of a series by City Engineer Jim Birch*



## Park to be scene of big-time costume party

Pack up your trick-or-treaters and join your neighbors for the 10th annual St. Matthews Halloween Festival in Brown Park on Saturday, Oct. 25.

Last year more than 1,500 kids took part in the free event, many with their grown-ups in tow.

Once again this year, festival plans call for music, games, a petting zoo, 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 makes quick work of storm debris cleanup

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Bowling Jr. also was on the scene, helping to direct the work, assessing damage, and sometimes pitching in.

“Oh yeah, Bernie was out there,” Tonini said. “He kind of reminded me of his dad. I remember once when we had a trash problem and Bernie Sr. bought some used garbage trucks and created a sanitation department on the spot. My first job in public service was as a 14-year-old garbage man on one of his crews.”

Tonini said some residents were upset that all streets couldn't be cleared right away, but it is St. Matthews protocol not to clear trees that have any contact with electrical lines or cables.

The storm hit in mid-afternoon. With three exceptions, all city streets were open by 11 p.m.



City crews wasted no time re-opening streets and carting away debris.



Three 11-year-old St. Matthews girls — Liza Tevebaugh, left, Samantha Mayes and Jordan Weiter — devoted part of a post-storm, school's-out afternoon to helping neighbors clear debris from their yards. Here they are working at the home of Nancy Marx of Brownlee Road (on porch).

### Fall back

Curbside leaf pick-ups will begin on Monday, Nov. 10.

Crews will start on the west side of St. Matthews and work their way east. Signs will be posted to let residents know when to expect their collections.

Once the city has been covered once, the crews will retrace their steps through the city again; however, no warning signs will be posted for the second pickup.

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## Who ya gonna call?

If you have questions about real-estate taxes – such as when they're due or how they're calculated – use the "Call St. Matthews" number, 638-4STM (638-4786), access the Administration Line, then opt for #1.

To report a non-working street light – especially important now that kids are in school and it's getting darker earlier – call 638-4STM, go to the Service Line and pick #4.

The St. Matthews Historical Society is launching a new series of free programs. For specifics, call 638-4STM and access the News & Information Line, then choose option #5.

If you see someone or some-

thing that seems suspicious, you can give the police a heads-up – anonymously – by calling 498-CLUE (498-3583, option #1, or 638-4STM, option #4.

Stretch your entertainment dollar by taking part in family-friendly activities and events that are free or inexpensive. Call 638-4STM, access the News & Information Line, then select Current Events. The information there is updated regularly. You also can use the line to let others know about events not already on the list.

If there's anything you'd like to bring to the attention of city government – *anything* – by all means dial up the "Call St. Matthews" system (638-4STM) and get it off your chest.

## Good neighboring

Remember: The leash law applies to all dogs and other pets, even the best-behaved.

If you attach political signs to trees or poles, go back after the election and remove them.

Don't leave your car running when you're not in it. The practice wastes precious gas and pollutes the air; it can make a car thief's day; and it's illegal

Don't set cans and bags of trash, yard waste, etc., at the curb any earlier than the night before your pickup.

Homeowners who have had the city plant trees along a right-of-way are responsible for maintaining them.