

# ST. MATTHEWS NEWS

City of St. Matthews

Fall 1996

## City Hall

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

Police emergency: 911  
Routine police: 893-9000

## Mayor:

Arthur K. Draut

## Council Members:

Bernard Bowling Jr.  
Harry Hargadon Jr.  
Mary Jo Nay  
Steve Resch  
Martha Schade  
Richard Tonini  
Gary Vincent  
Tony Weiter

## City Hall office hours:

Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.,  
except during Daylight Savings  
Time, when hours are Mon.-  
Thurs., 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.,  
Fri., 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

## City Council meetings:

The council meets in open  
session at City Hall on the  
second and fourth Tuesdays of  
each month at 7 p.m.

## Property-tax bills delayed 1 month

St. Matthews property-tax bills, which normally go out each year around the first of October, will be about 30 days late this year, city officials say.

The delay won't have any effect on city programs or services.

The problem is that Kentucky state government has not been able to clear a logjam of appeals of new property assessments from Jefferson County homeowners.

St. Matthews officials expect to be able to mail the bills around Nov. 1.

The 40 percent prompt-payment discount normally granted to property owners who pay up by Oct. 31 will still be available for approximately one month. The 1996 deadline has simply been extended to Nov. 30.

St. Matthews real estate taxes are

computed at 21 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation—a one-cent reduction from 1995. The City Council has reduced the rate five times since 1990.

A disability or Homestead Exemption of \$23,100 (unchanged since last year) is available to homeowners who are disabled or 65 years of age or older, provided the proper application is on file at City Hall.

Property taxes are sometimes paid by the homeowner, sometimes by the mortgage holder. If you're not sure whether you're responsible for paying the tax, check with your mortgage company.

The city's biggest source of revenue (\$2.67 million) is the .75-percent occupational tax on income and commissions earned in St. Matthews.



St. Matthews workers planted 267 Red Sunset maple trees last winter, including these in the median of Bowling Boulevard.

## Inside:

*Leaf-cleanup crews about to blow into town.  
Police department takes on 2 Waggener grads.  
Fire District breaks silence on CO.  
A few minutes with the City Council.*

# City Council minutes

A petition signed by a majority of residents of the 200 block of Bonner Avenue, brought before the council in July, requested more police visibility and radar patrols to discourage speeding. Mayor Draut asked the police department to comply, but rejected the group's suggestion that speed bumps be installed or the street be made dead-end.

Draut also reported in July that a member of the Holzheimer family had asked that a plaque be erected on city park land near the intersection of Westport Road and Chenoweth Lane to mark the site of the family's historic potato warehouse. The mayor said he'd seek the St. Matthews Historical Society's advice.

In August, the council received a petition requesting an all-way stop at Hillsboro Road and Macon Avenue. Two weeks later, after the police department conducted a traffic count, and on Chief Mayer's recommendation, the council approved the stop.

An August discussion of a proposed ban on off-street parking in front of houses and parking pads on rights-of-way produced no consensus. Backers of the ban argued child safety and aesthetics; opponents said there's no compelling reason to change the rules.

Also in August, an LG&E spokeswoman told the council that the company's ambitious gas line replacement project was right on schedule.



A Construction Department crew recently plowed into Weicher Creek near Dutchmans Lane, dredging silt from the creekbed.

## How to give Haz Mats the heave-ho

There's an easy, convenient, environmentally responsible way to get rid of household hazardous materials.

Haz Bin — Jefferson County's Household Hazardous Materials Collection Center — accepts for disposal household materials that are corrosive, flammable, reactive or toxic.

The center, at 7501 Grade Lane in Okolona, is open from 1-7 p.m. on

Wednesdays and from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturdays.

Hazardous household products include pesticides, herbicides and insecticides; oil-based and lead paints; automotive fluids; oven and drain cleaners; metal polishes and rust removers; and swimming pool chemicals.

For more information, call 57-GREEN (574-7336).

## Police welcome 2 Waggener grads, urge registration to curb bike thefts

The St. Matthews Police Department hired two new officers in May. They are:

Danny Grant, a graduate of Waggener High School and a U.S. Army veteran who served three years with the Shelbyville Police Department; and Charlie Newman, a Waggener graduate who was an officer in the Montgomery, Ala., Police Department for four years.

Because of a rash of bicycle thefts in recent months, the police department has launched a new, voluntary registration program. Residents and retailers can pick up registration forms at the police station between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. any weekday. The information is to be entered into a computer data base. The idea is to make it easier to locate the owner of a recovered bike. So far this year, St. Matthews police have recovered 26 bicycles — but has been able to return just one to its rightful owner.

The St. Matthews Police Department recently put into service a video camera purchased for the department by the Zachary Taylor American Legion Post. The camera, mounted in a patrol car, is used to tape traffic stops. Videotape is widely used as a law-enforcement tool. The city hopes eventually to equip all patrol vehicles with video cameras.

A few seasonal safety tips:

- When you're out doing yard work, keep your house locked; thieves are quick to take advantage of open doors.

- As the days grow shorter, be sure you have adequate outside lighting. And if you know you'll get home after dark, leave a few inside lights on, too.

## City vacuum crews poised to suck up fallen leaves

It's that time of year again.

St. Matthews will conduct its leaf-vacuuming program throughout the city again this fall, as weather permits.

The work is scheduled to begin on Nov. 4 in an area bounded by Frankfort Avenue, Interstate 64, Breckenridge Lane and Cannons Lane.

The scheduled pickup periods are Nov. 4-8, Nov. 11-15 and Nov. 18-22.

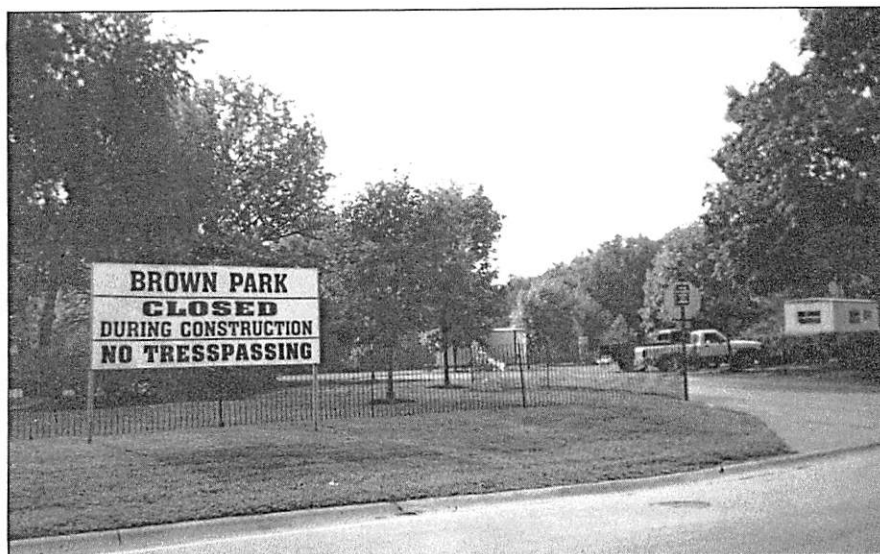
Signs will be erected on streets one week before the collection date for each area.

Cars should be kept off the streets during designated pickup weeks.

Each area scheduled for pickup will be completely cleared before crews move on to the next area. The collection crews will not backtrack.

However, if the weather cooperates, the crews will go through the city a second time. (But officials say no advance notice of this second pickup will be given.)

Leaves must be raked into piles and



J. Graham Brown Park is closed for a \$750,000 makeover. City officials expect to reopen the 27.5-acre park next spring.

placed near the street. City officials ask that homeowners put only leaves into the piles, because other materials, such as branches and twigs, can clog the machinery.

Homeowners may be liable for damage to the vacuuming equipment.

Residents may also set out an unlimited number of bags of leaves for pickup on regular garbage-collection days.

The leaves must be in recycled-paper bags available at Kroger, Winn-

Dixie and Target stores.

City workers also request that homeowners refrain from raking leaves into drainage ditches, where they may function as dams and cause serious drainage problems.

Also remember that yard waste must be separated from household trash.

All leaves collected in the city program are processed into compost, saving thousands of cubic feet of landfill space each year.

## Fire District is making noise about "the silent killer"

A "Fire Wise" tip from the St. Matthews Fire Protection District:

It's often called *the silent killer*; each year in the United States it claims 1,500 lives and injures 10,000 people.

It can cause or aggravate chronic illnesses such as heart disease and emphysema.

What is this menace?

Carbon monoxide, or CO — a colorless, odorless gas that is a byproduct of incomplete combustion, usually emitted from improperly vented gas fire appliances.

CO kills by displacing oxygen molecules in the bloodstream, thereby depriving the heart and brain of the oxygen needed to survive. Victims of CO poisoning suffer flu-like symp-

toms including headache, nausea, dizziness, fatigue and difficulty in breathing. Severe exposure results in a cherry-red skin color. Victims may take to a sickbed and never wake up.

Here's the good news: It's easy to protect yourself from this threat. Here's how:

- Have your furnace and water heater inspected once a year by a qualified professional.

- Have chimneys and flue vents inspected annually for blockage or deterioration.

- Watch for signs of incomplete combustion, such as orange-tinged flame and carbon streaks around the doors of fuel-burning appliances.

- Never run a vehicle inside an

attached garage.

- Do not try to use an oven to heat your home.

- Use kerosene heaters only in well-ventilated areas.

- Install UL-approved CO detectors outside the sleeping areas of your home.

If properly installed, CO detectors provide an effective early warning.

If your CO detector's alarm sounds, leave the house immediately; call EMS by dialing 911 to report symptoms of exposure; and contact the Fire Protection District for assistance in locating the source of the gas.

If the source is known, ventilate the house by opening windows and call a repairman to correct the problem.

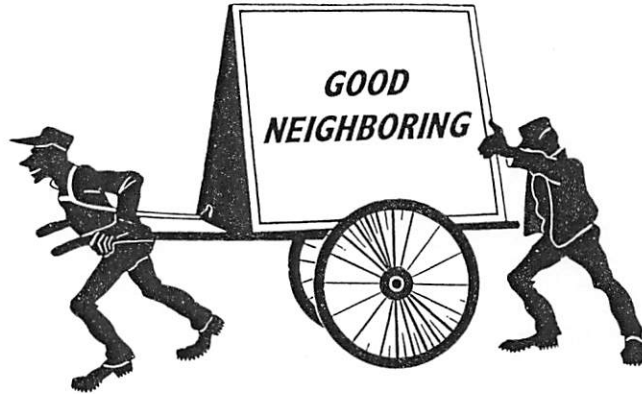


## City services

The procedure for St. Matthews homeowners who want new sidewalks in their neighborhoods has changed. It's no longer necessary for residents to collect the signatures of 51 percent of all homeowners affected. Instead, call City Hall at 895-9444, and St. Matthews employees will circulate the petition for you.

If you'd like to have street lights installed on your block, just write a note to City Hall. You may choose the style of light you prefer, but the placement will be determined by an LG&E engineer.

Going out of town? Attending a funeral? Call the St. Matthews Police at 893-9000 and arrange to have patrol officers make frequent checks of your house while you're away.



Be sure you place cones or pyramids meant to discourage off-street parking on your own property, and not on the city right-of-way. Rights-of-way usually extend to the water meter and not to the edge of the street. No one may put any material on city property without obtaining a permit.

At times when snow has accumulated on city streets, put your trash cans out by the street so they can be collected on the regular schedule.

Please don't set out cans and bags of trash any earlier than the night before your scheduled pickup.

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City Hall  
3940 Grandview Avenue  
St. Matthews, KY 40207

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