

# ST. MATTHEWS NEWS

City of St. Matthews

Spring 1999

## 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.  
Kevin Eddins  
Harry Hargadon Jr.  
Mary Jo Nay  
Martha Schade  
Richard Tonini  
Gary Vincent  
Tony Weiter

## City Hall office hours:

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.



Mark Wade, foreground, and Julio Sanchez worked on a rubberized playground surface at St. Matthews Community Center Park.

## Community Center Park to reopen after whirlwind \$3.4 million makeover

St. Matthews Community Center Park — expanded and renovated since last July at a cost of \$3.4 million — is expected to reopen by April 17.

That's the day the city's youth baseball league plans to begin play after its annual batter's-up parade down Shelbyville Road.

The parade starts at 8:30 a.m. at St. Matthews Baptist Church on Grandview Avenue and ends at the center on Ten Pin Lane. The league has about 900 kids between the ages of 5 and 18 who play baseball and T-ball on diamonds at the park.

The renovation of the center and the park was planned by Wallace Roberts & Todd architects of Philadelphia and carried out by E-Z Construction Co. That's the same team that earlier refurbished the city's Brown Park.

The park will have a new field for girls' softball, a gazebo, picnic pavilions, basketball and volleyball courts, new tennis courts, new blue light fixtures near the entrance and a walking path through the woods.

The center building has new restrooms and has been expanded to accommodate 400 people for meetings, receptions and other events.

The project was supposed to be finished in February but was held up by bad weather.

The goal of the renovation was to improve the center building and recreational areas and open the wooded areas to year-round public use.

The Community Center Park is St. Matthews' largest park, at nearly 50 acres, and also its oldest. The first 13.4 acres were purchased in 1980.

## Inside:

*City moves to counteract power of tower.  
Council faces the Curse of the Pyramids.  
'Tis the season to be wary, police say.*

## Spring brings crooks out of hibernation, police warn

A seasonal reminder from the St. Matthews Police Department:

When spring arrives, daffodils bloom, birds build nests, basketball champions are crowned, baseball games are rained out — and crooks and scam artists come out of hibernation.

Remember to lock your doors when you go outside. It's not uncommon for a thief to enter a home by the front door while the homeowner is out back mowing the lawn or putting in a garden.

If you are going to be away from home overnight, call the police department for a "house watch." We'll keep an eye on your property while you're away. Keep in mind that we'll need to come to your house to complete the paperwork before you leave, so call a day or two ahead of time.

Make the effort to put away tools, bicycles and other valuables when

they're not in use — even when you know you'll want them again in a little while. Leaving them outside is playing into the hands of mischief-makers.

Make an inventory of serial num-

### **Les was more**

The Police Department would like to say "Thank you" and "Good luck" to Lt. Les Jewell, who retired on Dec. 31. Jewell began his career as a patrolman and retired as Night Chief, after serving the people of St. Matthews faithfully for 28 years.

bers of bikes and power tools and the like. The police department will lend you an engraving device you can use to mark them with identifying information. That makes them much less attractive to thieves and greatly improves

the odds of recovery if they are stolen.

Does your home have an alarm system?

If so, review the owner's manual and be sure you know how to use it properly. Be sure the other members of your family also know how it works. Don't forget to tell cleaning people and other workers who enter your home how to disable and reset the alarm. Police respond to many false alarms every month because of thoughtless homeowners.

Also, keep in mind that having an alarm is no substitute for common-sense crime-prevention practices. Good locks and proper lighting are the best defenses against burglary.

Finally, look out for unscrupulous home-repair contractors. If a Mr. Fix-It visits your home, call the police department right away. We'll check him out and see if he has a city license.

### **Westport plan altered**

The state Department of Transportation has changed the schedule for the widening of Westport Road.

The project will be undertaken in three stages: 1) from Hubbards Lane to the I-264 interchange; 2) construction of the interchange and finishing to Herr Lane; and 3) widening from Herr Lane to Hurstbourne Parkway.

The original plan was for 1 and 2 to be finished before 3 got under way.

The new plan moves the third phase ahead by a year, from 2002 to 2001, so that all three phases will be finished about the same time.



The city council is trying to decide what to do about the pyramids that guard people's yards and sometimes damage people's vehicles.

## City fathers ponder the mysteries of the pyramids

If you have put cement pyramids, cones or blocks near a public right-of-way to keep motorists from driving or parking in your yard, please keep in mind that these impediments should be at least 18 inches off the roadway to reduce the risk of accident or injury.

On several recent occasions, pyramids have caused damage to cars and trucks and/or caused drivers to lose control of their vehicles.

If an accident happens because of the pyramids, the primary legal liability would rest with the homeowner or the person who put them out.

The St. Matthews City Council has been trying to decide what to do about the problem. Some members want to just send out crews of city workers to collect the things and dispose of them, particularly when they are within 18 inches of a street. Some

would rather just send notices of potential liability to all city residents. Nobody wants to have to pass a new law to deal with the problem.

The attorney for the city, Foster Haunz, explained that it is the city's responsibility to keep streets safe for the motoring public.

Here's the bottom line:

City officials would be happy if the pyramids all simply vanished.

## Special junk collection is scheduled for the *ides* of May

The annual Junk Collection for "A" District is scheduled for Saturday, May 15, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

There will be two collection sites — the East Government Center, 200 Juneau Drive, and Westport Middle School, 8100 Westport Road.

This is an opportunity for residents to dispose of large items and trash not normally accepted by their waste handlers. Waste Management of Kentucky will provide containers for the trash and waste and trucks to haul it away.

Residents will be responsible for putting the materials in the containers, and each household will be limited to two trips.

Some items — including yard waste, major appliances, paints and hazardous materials, tires, car and truck batteries and commercial trash — won't be accepted.

The Jefferson County Household Hazardous Materials Collection Center, 7501 Grade Lane, accepts household hazardous materials on Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The county-wide clean-up is a joint project of the Jefferson County Public Schools, the Jefferson County Public Works Department and Waste Management of Kentucky.

## City opts for soft-cell approach in dealing with towers of babble

The St. Matthews City Council recently sent a letter to local cellular-phone companies, advising that the city has identified three acceptable potential sites for cell towers.

In its "Dear Cellular Company" letter, the council urges the firms to work with city officials to identify sites "that we both can live with."

As the popularity of cellular phones has skyrocketed in recent years, so has the need for new transmission towers.

The city has no control over the locations of such towers and plays no direct role in reviewing or approving requests for new towers.

The cellular company chooses a site and applies directly to the Louisville-Jefferson County Planning Commission. The planning commission, applying its land-use guidelines, approves or denies the request, which is then subject to a separate review by the Public Service Commission in Frankfort.

City officials began exploring the cell-tower issue

last summer after losing a battle to keep a tower out of the Dupont area.

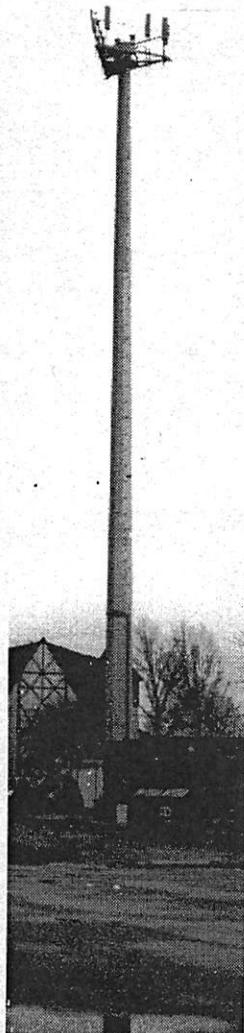
"The attorney for the city and Mayor (Art) Draut went to Frankfort to argue against the tower, but it went up anyway," says council member Tony Weiter. "That showed us how little power we really had."

The council has chosen three potential locations for cell towers — behind the old city hall on Thierman Lane near the railroad track; off Ten Pin Lane near St. Matthews Community Center Park; and on the southern edge of Brown Park on Browns Lane.

The city also identified a number of sites with existing towers where new equipment could be added.

The idea is to avoid confrontations with the cell-phone companies while still exercising some control over construction of unsightly towers.

It's good for the city — and good for the companies, too. Having the support of the affected city improves a company's chances of having its tower application approved.



## Business association schedules summertime events

The St. Matthews Area Business Association will present its annual exhibition, "Sampling St. Matthews," on Thursday, June 17.

The event will get under way at 6 p.m. in Trinity High School's Alumni Hall. Admission will be one canned food item for Dare to Care.

City business men and women will be showing off their products, area

restaurants will be serving free food, entertainment will be provided, and door prizes will be given away — with a hitch: You must be present to win.

Last year's "Sampling" drew a record 2,500 visitors.

SMABA also announced that it and city government will co-sponsor Sunday "Music in Brown Park" band concerts this summer on June 27, Aug. 15,

and either July 11 or July 18.

The evening concerts are free. St. Matthews residents and others are invited to bring a picnic dinner and enjoy the music.

On June 27, the Fort Knox Army Band will perform. On Aug. 15, it will be the Derbytownt Doodlers Dixieland Band. Arrangements for the July concert weren't complete by press time.

ST. MATTHEWS NEWS  
City Hall  
3940 Grandview Avenue  
St. Matthews, KY 40207

BULK RATE  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Louisville, KY  
Permit #976

Please remember that yard waste is collected only from the street on the regular collecting day. There is no alley or backyard collection.

Yard waste is taken to a composting facility, so it's very important to use biodegradable paper or plastic bags or cans clearly marked "Yard Waste."

Don't set cans and bags of garbage out any earlier than the night before your pickup.

Park all cars and other vehicles — including those offered for sale — in driveways, not in easements or on rights-of-way.

If you have a dog that barks incessantly at night or early in the morning, take steps to silence him for the sake of your sleepless neighbors.

Remember the leash law; it applies to all dogs, no matter how well-behaved.

Dam nuisance: Please don't put compost heaps, leaves, grass clippings or anything else in the city's drainage ditches.



## City Services

Anyone interested in having the Works Department plant trees along a city right-of-way can make the request by calling City Hall.

What to recycle: Newspapers (no magazines or glossy paper); glass bottles and jars (no window glass, light bulbs, dishware, etc.); tin cans; aluminum cans (no aluminum foil, pie tins, etc.); plastic bottles and jugs (with lids removed).

If you'd like street lights installed on your block, write a note to City Hall, including your name, address and phone number. The lights' exact placement will be determined by a Louisville Gas & Electric Co. engineer.

People whose areas have crooked or broken sidewalks can easily get them repaired; just call City Hall.