

# ST. MATTHEWS NEWS

City of St. Matthews

Winter 1995-'96

## 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.

## City property owners save big as council rejects MSD overture

St. Matthews' government has again voted not to allow the city to be annexed by the Metropolitan Sewer District.

As a result, St. Matthews homeowners will continue not paying a monthly Surface Water Drainage Fee of \$2.75.

The MSD fee program, intended to meet the cost of necessary drainage improvements in the county, was launched in January 1987, when the

stale to development in the area, once known as the "land of the lakes."

It was a \$2.75 million sewer-and-drainage project launched by former Mayor Bernard Bowling in the late 1950s that led to the city's phenomenal growth in the 1970s and 1980s.

After a recent series of meetings with MSD officials, the council decided to continue the city's practice of dealing with drainage problems on its own, through its Works and Construc-

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**— Mayor Arthur Draut**

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charge to homeowners was set at \$1.75 per month.

As a fourth-class city, St. Matthews had the option of joining the program or declining to participate, and the council voted against participation.

The residential fee, collected by the Louisville Water Co., was raised to \$2.75 in August. (Non-residential customers of MSD, including churches, hospitals, businesses and shopping centers, pay fees based on building size and square footage of property.)

City officials estimate that St. Matthews property owners would have to pay about \$500,000 a year if the city were annexed by MSD.

Historically, drainage and flooding problems in the Beargrass Creek watershed have been the biggest ob-

tion departments.

The city, which has a priority list of \$5 million in improvements to be made over the next five years, is planning to enlarge its Construction Department to undertake the additional work — without raising city taxes or fees, according to Mayor Arthur Draut.

"During the eight years that we have not participated in the MSD program," Draut said recently, "you can readily see that your city government has saved you hundreds — and in the cases of non-residential customers, thousands — of dollars."

"Considering all the discussion concerning budgets and taxes, I thought it would be a breath of fresh air to read about what your local government is doing in this area."

## Inside:

*Fighters' job isn't done when the fire is out.  
Brown Park is about to get a \$750,000 facelift.  
Putting a lid on train whistles.  
Library launches money-management series.*

# St. Matthews' full-service fire department does a lot more than just putting out blazes

Your fire department has come a long way since 1919, when the St. Matthews Volunteer Fire Association started with a few dedicated men and a hand-pulled hose cart.

Today's firefighting squad, now known as the St. Matthews Fire Protection District, is a thoroughly modern outfit, with highly trained personnel and state-of-the-art equipment, that performs a multitude of services.

## Staffing

The district, led by Chief William J. Seng, a veteran of 18 years' service and a lifelong St. Matthews-area resident, is now staffed by 18 career and 30 volunteer firefighters.

A four-man "Fast Response" engine company is on-duty 24 hours a day to provide initial response to all emergencies. St. Matthews firefighters responded to nearly 1,200 calls for help in 1994 and made more than 1,300 runs last year.

## Library's winter program heats up with series that's "All About Money."

From the library staff:

The St. Matthews/Eline Library is jumping into winter with both feet.

We will begin our 1996 programming with a series "All About Money" in the month of January.

On Tuesday, Jan. 16, at 7 p.m., Chuck Willingham will conduct a presentation on "Estate Planning."

On Jan. 23, also at 7 p.m., Brian Sumner will discuss "Seven Greatest Money Mistakes."

Finishing up the series at 7 p.m. on Jan. 30 will be Tony Belluci, with "Financial Planning for 1996."

February will bring a series of programs on Attention Deficit Disorder; and in March, the library will sponsor another Mystery Clinic.

Our children's department is excited about having broken ground on a 4-H Friends Garden at the south side

**EMS**  
You can no longer assume, on seeing a fire truck responding to an emergency, that it is on its way to a fire. Medical emergencies account for one-third of the district's runs. Jefferson County Emergency Medical Services regularly dispatches district firefighters to assist critically ill patients. This is an advantage because the district can respond immediately with four EMT-trained firefighters and medical equipment including a defibrillator that can restart the hearts of some patients.

## Public education

Every year, representatives of the district visit with every child attending elementary school in the city. Using training tools such as the Children's Fire Safety House and Sparky the Fire Dog, they teach children how to prevent fires and how to survive them when they occur. Firefighters also are available to speak to adult groups on

health and safety issues.

## Prevention

Chief Seng has a strong background in fire prevention, and has made it a department priority. Most fire officers are Kentucky-certified fire inspectors, and the department's Fire Prevention Bureau is assigned two full-time inspectors who regularly check businesses and public buildings and review building plans for fire safety.

## Smoke Detectors

Recently the district set out to canvass the entire district in an effort to ensure that every home has at least one working smoke detector. Every Sunday, firefighters can be seen going door-to-door speaking with homeowners about the importance of these life-saving devices. If a household doesn't have a working detector, one is installed free of charge.

## Lyndon Fire District

Some St. Matthews residents — those east of I-264 — are served by the Lyndon Fire Protection District, led by Chief James Baker. It provides a similar range of services.

For more information, or to volunteer, call 893-7825, or stop by the main station at 240 Sears Avenue.

## Works aces snow test

The Jan. 5-7 storm that dumped a foot of snow on the Louisville area was a severe test of the St. Matthews Works Department's snow-removal capacity — and the department passed with flying colors.

Using two salt- and sand-spreaders and four snowplows bought after a record 16-inch snowfall in January 1994, Works employees had all city streets plowed, salted and traffic-worthy by the morning of Jan. 8.

Supt. Bill Kaiser said there were no serious snow-related accidents in the city, thanks largely to the Works employees' heroic performance.

# Council votes to spend \$750,000 for improvements to Brown Park

The St. Matthews City Council has voted to spend \$750,000 on improvements to the city's J. Graham Brown Park.

The 27.5-acre park, bounded by Browns Lane, Bowling Blvd., I-64 and Baptist Hospital East, was presented to the city in 1977 by the James Graham Brown Foundation. It has a picnic

area with a pavilion, and a walking path along Beargrass Creek. It was recently the site of an annual Christmas display sponsored by the St. Matthews Area Business Association.

Among the proposed improvements:

- A small amphitheater with raised lawn seating.

- A walking bridge across the creek, and a set of stepping stones for children.

- A playground to be provided near the parking area.

- Fifteen additional parking spaces.

- Additional (handicapped-accessible) walking trails throughout the park.

- A small ornamental pond.

- A walkway for easier access to and from Baptist East.

Construction is expected to start this coming spring.

The facelift plan is the work of the design firm Wallace, Roberts and Todd, which the city hired in September to help council members and residents reach a consensus on improving the second-largest city park (only the Community Center, at 48 acres, is bigger).

The picnic shelter now in the park will remain.

The council approved the plan during its Dec. 12 meeting, after a brief presentation by a spokesman for the design firm.

Mayor Art Draut expressed concern about the safety of the stepping stones, but was assured that the stones to be used are flat and have a rough texture for secure footing. The designers say they expect no serious problems from flooding of the creek during heavy rains. (The mayor describes that stretch of the creek as a "stovepipe" through which water runs comparatively slowly.)

The council is now accepting bids from construction firms. The work will be supervised by a representative of Wallace, Roberts and Todd.



Many of the trees in the city's J. Graham Brown park bear identification labels, which can make a visit to the 27.5-acre park an educational experience.

## How to get involved in a whistle-stop campaign

Although Congress has passed a law mandating that trains blow warning whistles at all highway-rail crossings, St. Matthews residents needn't worry unduly that their serenity — or sleep — will be disturbed.

The city council passed an ordinance in 1989 specifying that whistles are not to be blown at crossings where safety gates are provided or where a watchman is stationed, except in cases of imminent danger.

Kentucky law gives cities the authority to establish "quiet zones" where sufficient safety conditions are met, subject to approval by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).

The U.S. Congress passed legislation in 1994 requiring the FRA to issue, by November 1996, a rule mandating the use of whistles at all highway crossings. However, the proposed rule would allow exceptions where other measures adequately ensure public safety.

The FRA is to launch the rule-making process in January 1996, and is seeking suggestions from the public. To comment on the rule or suggest alternate safety measures, write to:

Jolene Molitoris, FRA Administrator

400 7th Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20590.

*City trivia: Breckenridge Lane was named for Alexander Breckinridge, an early settler in the St. Matthews area, but is spelled differently today because of an error compounded by a succession of street-sign painters.*

# City of St. Matthews services

## Let there be light

If you'd like to have street lights installed on your block, write a note to City Hall, being sure to include your name, address and phone number. You may choose the style of light you prefer, but the placement will be determined by a Louisville Gas & Electric Co. engineer.

## Trees for free

Anyone interested in having the Works Department plant trees in front of his or her home along a city right-of-way can make the request by calling City Hall at 895-9444.

## Security, on the house

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.

## Step on a crack?

People whose areas have crooked or broken sidewalks can easily get them repaired or replaced; just call City Hall. Those wanting brand-new sidewalks need petitions bearing the names of 51 percent of all residents affected.

## 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). Materials for recycling are picked up the same day as regular trash, if placed at the street.

## This is snow trash talk

A reminder: When snow is on the ground, you must place your garbage cans at the curb, or provide a clear path to the cans from the street. Otherwise your trash won't be picked up.



Please park cars and other vehicles — including those offered for sale — in your driveway, *not* on the right-of-way.

Parking on the street endangers children walking to and from school or boarding and leaving schoolbuses; is a hazard to motorists when streets are covered by snow or ice; and may impede police, fire and other emergency vehicles.

**St. Matthews News**  
City Hall  
3940 Grandview Avenue  
St. Matthews, KY 40207

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**COUNCIL MEMBERS**  
Harry Hargadon, Jr.  
Martha Schade  
Bernard Bowling, Jr.  
Richard Tonini

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**  
Steve Resch  
Mary Jo Nay  
Tony Weiter  
Robert O'Connell

## **City of St. Matthews**

**3940 Grandview Avenue, P. O. Box 7097, St. Matthews, KY 40257-0097**

**City Hall 895-9444**  
**Police Emergency 911**  
**Routine Police 893-9000**  
**Arthur K. Draut**  
**Mayor**  
**1995 / 96**

**CITY COUNCIL** meets at 7:00 P.M. on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays. Your comments and appearance are encouraged. **OFFICE HOURS** are Monday through Friday, 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except during the months of daylight savings time, when the office closes at 12:30 on Friday.

**ST. MATTHEWS POLICE DEPARTMENT — EMERGENCY 911**

**ST. MATTHEWS POLICE — ROUTINE CALLS 893-9000**

**POLICE HOUSE WATCH** — Residents needing this service during vacation, funerals, etc. 893-9000.

**FIRE PROTECTION** — In case of fire, dial 911 and report location of fire. The fire department is an independent agency and levies its own taxes. It is not a part of your city government. Fire Department office, non-emergency, 893-7825.

**LIBRARY HOURS** — St. Matthews / Eline Memorial Library, 3940 Grandview Avenue, is open from 10:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M., Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and from 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday. Closed on Sundays and Holidays. Telephone 574-1771.

**PARK SYSTEM** — Community Center — Forty-eight acres. Recreation, playground, tennis courts, baseball, basketball. Summer months, various programs. Modern facility available for wedding receptions, reunions, etc. For further information call 897-6371.

**Brown Park** — Picnic tables, nature walks, passive atmosphere.

**Warwick Villa Park** — Tot lot, softball diamond, picnic grounds, walking track. Pavilions at Brown Park and Community Center can be reserved on a first come first served basis for large groups by calling St. Matthews City Hall.

**REAL ESTATE TAXES** are 22 cents per hundred dollars assessed valuation. Disability or **HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION** (\$23,100.00) is available to owners disabled or 65 years of age or older provided the application is on file at City Hall. A 40% discount will be given if the bill is paid during the month of October.

**BUSINESS LICENSES** are required.

**OCCUPATIONAL TAX** — The City has imposed .75% tax on gross income and commissions earned in St. Matthews.

**SANITARY SEWERS** are managed by Metropolitan Sewer District, 540-6000.

**FLOOD INSURANCE** — St. Matthews residents are eligible for flood insurance through their insurance agent at a federally subsidized rate.

**STREET RIGHTS-OF-WAY** usually extend to the water meter and not the edge of the street. No person shall deposit material upon, do any filling or excavation in or upon, or plant any shrubbery, bush or tree within, construct any private culvert or driveway on or within any street right-of-way of the City without having first obtained a permit. Ord. 13, 1959 (92.04) It is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner to maintain this area. Many residents have rear easements. The property owner is responsible for maintenance of this area also.

**BUILDING PERMITS** are required. The application is made at City Hall but the fee is set by and collected for Jefferson County.

**SIGN PERMITS** are required for both permanent and temporary signs. The application is made at City Hall.

**CABLE TELEVISION** — For information concerning cable television, call TKR, 448-9402, or drop by their office at 1401 Oechsli.

**OPERATION IDENTIFICATION** — An etcher is available at the City Hall to assist residents in marking their belongings with an identification number, date of birth, initials, etc. Upon return of the etcher, stickers will be supplied to affix to doors or windows notifying potential thieves that all items are identifiable.

**OPEN FIRES** are prohibited by the Air Pollution Control District of Jefferson County, Ky., 574-6000.

**OBSTRUCTIONS AT INTERSECTIONS** — All owners of property at street intersections are reminded they are prohibited from planting or permitting to grow any shrubbery, bush or tree which would obstruct the view of motorists using the intersection. Fences are also prohibited.

**STREET ADDRESSES** — Ordinance #12, 1985 requires that all residential and commercial property shall conspicuously display the appropriate street address that is visible from the nearest street.

**BOATS, BUSES, TRUCKS AND TRAILERS** — Residents are cautioned that City Ordinances prohibit parking trucks, buses, boats or trailers in the driveway or yard in front of the residence.

**DOGS AND CATS** cannot run loose. Ordinance # 88-03 requires dogs and cats to be on a leash.

**STREET LIGHTS** — Residents desiring street lights on their block should contact City Hall. Light style may be selected but placement will be determined by LG&E.

**TREE PLANTING** — Property owners interested in having trees planted in front of their property on the street right-of-way should contact City Hall.

**LEAF COLLECTION** — The City has a leaf pickup program. Specific information will be provided prior to the leaf pickup season.

#### **GARBAGE AND REFUSE COLLECTION**

1. Residential units within the City of St. Matthews are entitled to the equivalent of THREE (3) THIRTY (30) gallon cans.
2. Garbage cans must be a reasonable distance from the street and easily accessible near rear house doors and driveways.
3. Cans containing water, ice, or garbage frozen to cans due to lack of proper lids will not be handled.
4. Collector should be able to open gates with one hand and he does not have to go inside garages.
5. 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.
6. Trash, or other unwanted items will be picked up on regularly scheduled days throughout the year if placed at the street, except residents with alley pickup should place items at the alley.
7. Limbs or brush tied in a bundle not longer than 4 feet nor weighing more than 50 pounds will be picked up throughout the year if placed at the street or alley where garbage is usually picked up.
8. Christmas trees will be picked up on regularly scheduled days during the two weeks following Christmas if they are placed at the street or alley where garbage is usually picked up.
9. Leaves and grass clippings will be picked up on regularly scheduled days if placed at the street or alley where garbage is usually picked up in 30 gallon yard waste paper bags.
10. All occupants of residential buildings with an excess of three (30) gallon cans must contract with Laidlaw Waste Systems, 451-9905 for the pickup of additional cans at the rate of \$2.97 per can per month.
11. In the event your garbage collection is not made, notify Laidlaw Waste System between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday, and no later than 11:00 A.M. on Saturday, 451-9905.
12. Residents who have dogs loose in fenced yards at the time of pickup are asked to put their garbage outside the gate. Employees have been bitten.
13. Residents who wish to dispose of large appliances (stoves, refrigerators, water heaters, etc.) should contact Laidlaw Waste Systems, 451-9905. Appliances are picked up the 2nd Wednesday of the month if placed at the street. There is no fee.
14. In order to help the contractor render the most efficient service, please do not ask their employees to take excess trash for money or alcoholic drinks. If you have excess trash and want a special pickup, please call Laidlaw Waste Systems, 451-9905 and they will send a representative to quote you a price. Residents who offer alcoholic beverages or tips for special privileges ultimately downgrade the quality of service they will receive. Appreciation of regular routine service can be shown in other ways and at appropriate times.