

# ST. MATTHEWS NEWS

City of St. Matthews

Winter 1997

## 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.-Thurs., 9 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 officers to be on video patrol

One St. Matthews Police patrol car was recently equipped with a video camera that records all activity during an officer's tour of duty.

Eventually, video capability will be the rule rather than the exception in St. Matthews. Cameras are being installed in new cars as they are put into service.

The use of video documentation is recognized as a useful and valuable tool to aid law-enforcement officers in training and court proceedings.

The city also recently purchased a four-wheel-drive Ford Explorer that will be driven by the department's D.A.R.E. officer.

Officials believe this vehicle, purchased for \$23,000 from Star Ford, will be useful in inclement weather.

Speaking of bad weather: Here are some tips about driving when conditions are less than ideal:

When the weather is bad, don't go out unless it's really necessary.

Make sure your tires are inflated properly.

Give yourself more braking distance.

Wear sunglasses in daylight; they'll help you deal with glare from snow.

Watch for other drivers having problems.

The department hired a new officer in September — Lewis Christopher, a U.S. Coast Guard veteran who served three years with the Lexington Police Department.

Christopher, who is married and has a son, was assigned to patrol duty.



Signs of progress in the city's Brown Park project include a colorful new play set, a wildflower area and more than a mile of new paths.

## Inside:

*Share a few minutes with the city council.  
Explore the mythology of seat belts.  
Claim an extra \$1,300 for the ol' Homestead.  
Book some quality time with your library.*

# City Council minutes

After discussion by Mayor Draut, the council and the St. Matthews Historical Society, city park land near the intersection of Chenoweth Lane and Westport Road is to be marked with a plaque honoring the Holzheimer family, whose potato warehouse was once located on the site.

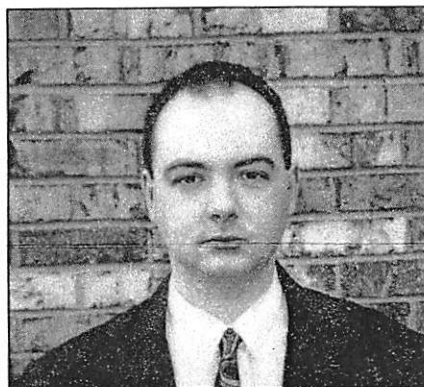
Trinity High School officials, concerned about safety, inquired about the possibility of installing a caution light on North Sherrin Avenue. Draut said the city engineer had made an on-site inspection and determined that the light wasn't needed. The mayor suggested, however, that the crosswalk be re-striped and a caution sign installed. He said Trinity could install a light at its own expense.

The city decided to spend its Municipal Road Aid funds to resurface streets and alleys; build sidewalks along Breckenridge Lane and along Dutchmans Parkway in the Springs development; improve drainage along Bauer, Wiltshire, Ridgeway and Hycliffe avenues, Cornell Place and Oxford Place; and improve storm-sewer systems in an area bounded by Cannons Lane, Norbourne Blvd., Breckenridge Lane and Dayton Avenue.

Draut said a survey of property owners on Hillsboro Road found that a majority don't want sidewalks installed.

After Police Chief Mayer told the council that a traffic survey of Ridgeway Avenue between Lyndon Way and Shelbyville Road had found "a tremendous amount" of traffic, stop signs were erected at Oeschli and Brown avenues.

Draut and the council exchanged congratulations, Draut for being inducted into Waggener High School's Hall of Fame, the council for winning reelection.



Patrolman Lewis Christopher, hired Sept. 30, is the newest member of the Police Department.

## Self-defense for kids will be focus of workshop

A free self-defense workshop for children ages 7-12, "Elf Defense," is set for Jan. 25 at St. Matthews Community Center, 310 Ten Pin Lane.

The event, sponsored by the

county Office of Community Outreach, will run from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., with a demonstration for parents at 1:15. Reservations are required; call 574-6720.

## 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).

## St. Matthews/Eline library branch schedules events for children, adults

The St. Matthews/Eline Branch Library has expanded its programming for adults with *Tuesday Topics*, a weekly series of presentations on a variety of topics.

All sessions start at 7 p.m. Some of those scheduled so far:

Jan. 21: Lou Ann Iler, *An Introduction to Oils and Acrylics*.

Jan. 28: Barbara Pence, *An Introduction to Watercolor*.

Feb. 4: Bill Fitzgerald, *Model Trains, a Hobby and Passion*.

Feb. 11: Elizabeth Bevarly, Valerie Kane Kirkwood and Jan Scarbrough, *The Love and Business of Romance Writing*.

Feb. 18: John Hartline, *The Old K&IT Railroad*.

Feb. 25: Herbert Ball, *The K&IT Bridge*.

The series will take up health topics in March, the personal computer in April, and genealogy and journal writing in May.

The monthly book discussions for adults have been rescheduled for 11 a.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

The library's StoryHour for children has become a year-round event. They take place at 11 a.m. Wednesday for pre-schoolers, 7 p.m. Thursday for families, and 10 a.m. Friday for 1- to 3-year-olds.

The event for Thursday, Jan. 16, for kids aged 4 through 12, is a sing-along with Michelle Lloyd.

The hour for toddlers on Friday, Jan. 17, will be *Kindermusik*, featuring Jan Bloemer and Patty Bailey and a variety of musical activities.

If you have any comments or questions about library activities, call 574-1771.

If you'd like to join Friends of the St. Matthews/Eline Library, come in to the branch and ask about membership.

# Fire department aims to dispel myths about use of seat belts

The St. Matthews Fire Department encourages motorists and passengers to wear seat belts.

Despite widespread publicity and laws mandating the use of seat belts, many people still refuse to use them.

Several times each year, the fire department responds to traffic accidents where people have received serious or fatal injuries that might have been avoided had safety belts been used.

Here are a few familiar, self-deceptive myths about seat belts:

**Myth:** *"If I'm thrown out of the car I have a better chance of surviving."*

The fact is, you are 25 times as likely to suffer fatal injuries in an accident if you are ejected from the vehicle.

**Myth:** *"I only need seat belts when I'm driving at high speeds on interstate highways."*

Most accidents resulting in serious injuries occur within one mile of the victim's home. Most injury accidents involve vehicles traveling at less than 40 mph, and seat belts are very effective at preventing these low-speed collision injuries. Don't imagine that you can brace yourself to keep from flying

forward into the windshield or steering wheel; the laws of physics work against you.

**Myth:** *"I don't need seat belts; my car has airbags."*

In order for an airbag to be effective, a person has to be in the proper position. Most serious injuries occur when a victim "submarines" under the airbag. Moreover, the airbag itself can cause injury to someone not wearing a seat belt.

Remember that children under 80 pounds should not ride in a seat protected by an airbag; the bag can deploy with an explosive force that can cause serious injuries to children. Children should ride in the back seat and be restrained with seat belts or car seats.

**Myth:** *"I'm afraid that a seat belt would keep me from escaping if my vehicle were burning."*

Injuries are much more likely to prevent your escape. Actually, despite what you see in the movies, fires resulting from traffic accidents are extremely rare.

The bottom line: There really is no good excuse not to take advantage of all the safety devices that your car manufacturer provides.

## Homestead Exemption raised to \$24,400

The state exemptions that reduce property assessments for senior and disabled homeowners have been increased for 1997 and 1998 from \$23,100 to \$24,400.

If you are 65 or older and own your home, you qualify for the Homestead Exemption.

If a federal agency has deemed you totally disabled for 12 continuous months, you are entitled to a Disability Exemption.

To receive either exemption, you must have an application on file at St. Matthews City Hall. You also must apply at the Jefferson County Property Valuation Administrator's office or at one of the county's suburban government centers.

## Apartment community extends helping hand to families in need

Stonemill Village Apartments is participating in "Open Arms," a program that provides homes for families facing medical emergencies.

The program is a project of the employees of Mid-America Apartment Communities of Memphis, a real-estate investment trust that owns 18,157 rental units in 13 states. Stonemill Village, at 850 Washburn Avenue, is a Mid-America property.

The Open Arms Foundation provides homes for families whose medical problems require long-term treatment at out-of-town facilities.

Each such family will receive, at no cost, a two-bedroom, fully furnished apartment, including utilities and basic phone and cable-television service.

Mid-America says as many as 19 Open Arms units may be in service at any given time. Applicants are referred to Mid-America by hospitals participating in the program.

For more information, call Rebecca Karlen at Stonemill Village: 426-1686.



Improvements in the works for Brown Park include two bridges over Beargrass Creek. The 27.5-acre park is to reopen this spring.



## Useful information

Owners of property at intersections are prohibited from erecting fences or planting trees or bushes that might obstruct the vision of motorists using the intersection. Homeowners are responsible for trimming trees and bushes that hang over a sidewalk or street.

**Operation Identification:** An etcher is available at the police department to mark residents' belongings with an identification number, initials, etc. When the etcher is returned, stickers are supplied to be affixed to doors and windows to warn off would-be thieves.

City permits are required for permanent and temporary signs.

Street rights-of-way usually extend to the water meter, not the edge of the street.



Help the city with snow removal by parking cars in driveways rather than on streets. Plows can do a quicker and better job when the roadways are clear. (Even when there's no snow, it's a good idea to park on the roadway only when there's no room in your driveway.)

Remember: City law prohibits parking trucks, buses, boats or trailers in driveways or front yards.

When snow accumulates to depths of two inches or more, put your trash cans out by the curb, or provide a clear path to the cans from the street. That will help the garbage tippers stay on their regular schedule.

Dog walkers: If your pet makes a deposit, please make a withdrawal. Also remember that pets outside their yards should be on leashes at all times.

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

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