



St. Matthews Living

City of St. Matthews
3940 Grandview Avenue
P.O. Box 7097
St. Matthews, KY 40257-0097
Hours: M-Th 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
F 7:30 -11:30 a.m.

AUGUST 2015

City to provide timely info through Reach Alert

A water main floods a thoroughfare. A rash of burglaries occurs. A wreck stops traffic. Situations which could adversely affect your day may be avoided with an instant communication from the City of St. Matthews putting you on the alert to unusual circumstances.

The City is contracting with Reach Alert, an instant communication system, to make its residents aware of emergency situations or unsafe conditions. Beginning in August, the City will pay for 4,500 households at .50 cent per household for two years. In the third year and thereafter, the City will pay \$1.00 for 4,500 households.

Apartment residents and businesses may also register for Reach Alert notifications at no charge. Likewise, if someone has a loved one in St. Matthews and would like to be informed, that person may also register.

Each resident who registers may choose any or all of three notification

options – text, email, or phone. There are also two levels of notifications residents may select. By selecting the first level, residents will only receive emergency notifications.



Examples of emergency notifications include a broken water main, clean up after a weather event, road cleaning due to snow falls, and interruption in garbage collection due to weather events. The Reach Alert system also allows the City to notify persons in specific areas of St. Matthews in the event that an incident does not affect all residents.

By selecting the second level of notification, residents will receive all notifications including both emergency notifications and

SMFD among best in nation with ISO Class 1 rating

The St. Matthews Fire Department was recently awarded the Insurance Services Office (ISO) highest rating – ISO Class 1. The rating moved SMFD into an elite group including only four other Metro Louisville fire departments and a total of 97 fire departments in the United States with an ISO Class 1 rating.

To help establish appropriate fire insurance premiums for residential and commercial properties, insurance companies need reliable, up-to-date information about a community's fire-protection services. ISO, the national insurance industry rating agency, provides that information through its Public Protection Classification (PPC™) program.

The 100 points needed to qualify for the Class 1 rating were earned as a result of the outstanding service of three organizations. Half the qualification points were earned due to the excellence of the St. Matthews Fire Protection District and its well trained and dedicated firefighters. Another 40 points were earned because the Louisville Water Company's support in fire suppression is world-class due to its enormous water



Continued on p. 7

Continued on p. 7

A Message From...

Budget approved

A budget of \$13,145,400 was approved by the City of St. Matthews for fiscal year 2015-2016. Through good stewardship and the creation of a carefully planned budget, the City is able to provide the excellent services St. Matthews residents enjoy. Some of those services include leaf pick up, pot hole repairs, and storm debris cleanup by the Works Department; public and school safety, home watches, and traffic patrol by the St. Matthews Police Department;

beautification and maintenance, emergency call boxes, and baseball fields in city parks; and ready answers to questions about taxes, building codes, schools, and many other topics supplied by the City's capable administration staff.



Tax rate set

The City also approved the usage of the Jefferson County Property Valuation Administration's tax assessment as a basis for its Ad

Valorem tax at a rate of 20 cents on each \$100 of PVA assessed value. The tax is payable in November or December, but those who pay before Oct. 31 will receive a 40% discount.

Tax bills will be mailed Oct. 1. Residents who do not receive their bill at that time or who have questions about their tax bill should contact City Hall as soon as possible at 895-9444.

The City of St. Matthews is working for you, making our community a great place to live and work.

Hometown History - 1953

Head back to yesteryear – 1953, to be exact. Does this photo evoke any memories? Can you identify where this picture was taken? What is in this spot today? See p. 11 to solve this issue's Hometown History mystery.



Louisville Gas & Electric

502-589-1444

Fast path options are: 1-1-1 (gas) and 1-1-2 (electric).

Emergency Contact Numbers

Louisville Water Company

502-583-6610

To report emergencies like water main breaks or broken fire hydrants.

Easy Being Green

Did you know that it's harmful to trees when you mound mulch up against the trunks of trees and shrubs? Those volcano-shaped piles may look good to some, but they can kill your trees. Mounding mulch causes existing surface roots to suffocate and new roots to grow inward, potentially strangling the tree. It also softens the bark of some



trees, inviting insects to invade. The constant trapped moisture will eventually kill the tree.

Instead of mounding, spread the mulch about 3 to 4 inches deep in a circle at least 3 feet in diameter around young trees and shrubs. Then brush away mulch at the center of the circle so that it is several inches from the base of the tree. This will allow the tree to stay healthy while suppressing weeds and retaining soil moisture.



Creating mulch volcanos around trees softens bark and roots creating issues that may eventually kill the trees.



Recycling is collected every other week on the same day as trash on weeks highlighted in red. Holidays are marked in blue and will delay recycling and trash one day.

August 2015

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2015

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27	28	29	30			

October 2015

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Free Medicare seminar to be held Sept. 15

A free Medicare seminar will be conducted by Medicare Simplified, an independent organization with a simple mission to educate individuals about their Medicare options. Medicare Simplified does not sell insurance.

The program is designed for individuals turning 65 within the next year and for those over 65. If

you are already enrolled in Medicare, open enrollment is coming and this is a great time to review your options for 2016.



The program will be held Sept. 15, 6-8 p.m., at the St. Matthews Community Center at 310 Ten Pin Lane. Though the seminar is free of charge, reservations are required due to material preparation and meeting room accommodation. Please call 513-382-8533 to make a reservation.

Police Beat

New cruisers added



Five new fully marked police cruisers increased the

St. Matthews Police Department's marked fleet to 28. SMPD also has nine unmarked vehicles. The cruisers are equipped with new Mobile Data Terminals (in-car computers), the latest on-board cameras, radios, and emergency equipment. These vehicles have been assigned to officers and are

currently being used on the streets of our city.

SRO hits the street

During the summer, when public schools are not in session, the School Resource Officer assigned to Waggener High School joins other SMPD officers on patrol duties, adding another uniformed officer on the street.

Crime Buzz

Light up the night

Thieves like to do their deeds in the dark. At night, turn your porch and yard lights on, especially in areas not easily visible from the street side or your neighbors. If the house will be unoccupied for several nights, leave some interior lights on so that it appears that someone is home. An inexpensive timer switch, which can be purchased at any hardware store, is ideal for this purpose. Also remember that you can call the St. Matthews Police Department and request a house watch if you are away. Just telephone SMPD at 893-9000 to schedule.

Do not leave valuables (iPads, laptops, cell phones, etc.) in your vehicle at night, even if it is locked.

Ladies, take note

Purses should not be left unattended in public places. It

only takes a second for someone to pick up an unwatched purse or to take something out of it. There are professional thieves who wander around parking lots and retail stores looking for an opportunity to steal cash or credit cards. They can quickly make purchases with your credit cards for thousands of dollars before you realize they are missing.

Beware of scammers

Avoid becoming a victim to a phone scam. If you receive a phone call from a person saying you owe money for whatever reason and it must be paid or something bad will happen, it is probably a scam. If they claim to represent a utility company and you suspect that they do not, ask for a name and an employee ID number. Call the company using the website or a phone book to locate the number and ask to speak to the billing or collections

department to confirm that the person works there.

Absolutely do not give your credit, debit, or social security number to anyone who calls asking for it. If you suspect a possible fraud attempt, call the police and ask for advice on how to handle it. Remember, if you get a phone call and what the caller is telling you sounds too good to be true, it most likely is a scam!

Speaking of scams and rip-off artists, this is the time of year for "home improvement" con artists to ply their trade. If a solicitor offers to recoat your driveway, clean your gutters, or do other home improvements, check them out to see if they are legitimate.

Never pay itinerant workers until the job is completed. If they insist that you do, terminate the agreement. Legitimate businesses usually do not do phone or door-to-door solicitation.

Park Place

Newly renovated field makes Buddy-Ball possible

The recent overhaul of Weinberg Field at Community Park will allow children with physical and mental



challenges to play baseball or softball. The Bambino Buddy-Ball program provides children who can't use a traditional field the opportunity to swing a bat, round the bases, or catch a ball with the help of a special buddy.

Renovations to the field included an artificial turf surface and underlying base materials that allow for the weight of wheelchairs and the ability to easily move walkers and other special needs devices over the surface. The field itself is smaller than a regulation field, making it easier for younger players to use. Also added to the



field were new bleachers, fences, and dugouts.

For more information on Bambino Buddy-Ball for the spring, see stmatthewsbaseballandsoftball.com.

New "call station" installed in Brown Park

The second Blue Light Emergency Call Tower in the city has been installed at Brown Park. Standing over 9 feet tall, this vandal-resistant tower serves as a great deterrent to crime. An always-lit LED Blue Light mounted atop the emergency phone tower provides high visibility and gives passersby a sense of security. Patrons can call emergency personnel with a simple push of a button. At the same time, the LED Blue Light begins to flash, attracting attention to the location. The Emergency Phone faceplate is illuminated at all times for clear visibility during the night.

The first tower was installed at Community Park on Ten Pin Lane during a park renovation project several years ago. After an evaluation period, the parks committee may recommend to the City Council that emergency towers also be installed in Warwick Park and Draut Park.

Community Park stream restoration begins

Construction is planned to start this month on the proposed Community Park stream restoration project. The project involves the restoration of approximately 2,660

feet of degraded stream channel through modification of stream alignment, the regrading of existing streambanks to stabilize bank slopes, the establishment of riffles (short sections of shallow water) for vertical grade control and aquatic habitat, and the construction of in-stream structures to provide lateral control, streambank protection, and aquatic habitat.

Once reaching final grades, the constructed streambanks will be seeded, mulched with clean straw, and covered with an erosion control mat. Later, in the appropriate season, native trees and shrubs will be planted within the areas disturbed during stream construction in order to provide bank stabilization, shade the stream channel, and provide a high quality corridor where the stream meets the bank.

With a projected construction end date of February 2016, visitors to Community Park next spring and summer will be able to enjoy the restoration improvements, which include: stable stream channels with proper hydrologic function; increased biological integrity; increased habitat quality for aquatic, terrestrial, and avian fauna; and increased aesthetic value.



Code Words

Solicitation ordinance

St. Matthews has a solicitation ordinance which states that persons may solicit between the hours of 9 a.m. and 7 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Solicitation is prohibited on Sunday and on state or national holidays.

All solicitors in Louisville Metro, which includes the areas in the City of St. Matthews, must have a peddler's license. Make it a habit to ask solicitors to see their IDs when they knock on your door. If they do not have this permit, or it is invalid, report them at once to the SMPD at 893-9000.

Proper fencing

While each neighborhood in St. Matthews has different setback requirements for buildings that affect fence locations, some general guidelines may be helpful in understanding the rules for fencing. Any fence between the line of your house and a street cannot be taller than four feet, including posts or ornaments. This includes both streets on corner lots.

In addition, for the first 25 feet along each street from the property street corner, no fence may be taller than two feet. In

any remaining areas, a fence may be up to seven feet tall.

You may only place a fence on your property, and you will want to ensure that there is not a deed restriction on your lot that further limits fencing. The City does not have access to these details, which can be uncovered through a title search or through your realtor.



Eline Library: Check it out



We are proud of our patrons at the St. Matthews-Eline Library. The number of items circulated in June at Eline was 51,326!

Here are some June totals for other branches: Bon Air 23,806; Crescent Hill 25,560; Highlands-Shelby Park 21,292; Main Library 29,839; Middletown 42,664; Southwest 35,880; and Westport 13,679.

The following programs will be held in the upcoming months:

Louisville's Olmsted Parks

Aug. 12, 2:30 p.m.

Come to this informative presentation on Louisville's

renowned Olmsted Parks system.

Scrabble Club

Aug. 13, 2:30 p.m.

Join our group dedicated to playing America's favorite board game.

Louisville's Water Tower

Aug. 20, 2:30 p.m.

The Water Tower was an integral part of Louisville Water's 1860 pumping operation and has withstood the test of time. Learn why it was built and what it was used for.



The Other Italy-Piemonte Sept. 9, 2:30 p.m.

Judy Robbins of the Italian Culture Institute will present a regional overview of the "Land of Mountains" of northwestern Italy. "Spectacular" and "sweeping" are words used to describe this mountainous area now famous for spas, skiing, castles, and villages.

Louisville Cemeteries Oct. 13, 2:30 p.m.

Local historians Steve Wiser and Jack Koppel will discuss Louisville cemeteries including Eastern, Portland, Western, Louisville, and Calvary. They will focus on the history as well as notable individuals buried at these locations. (Note: Cave Hill will not be featured in this talk.)

Hot Off the Press

SMFD hosts Crusade rib cook off

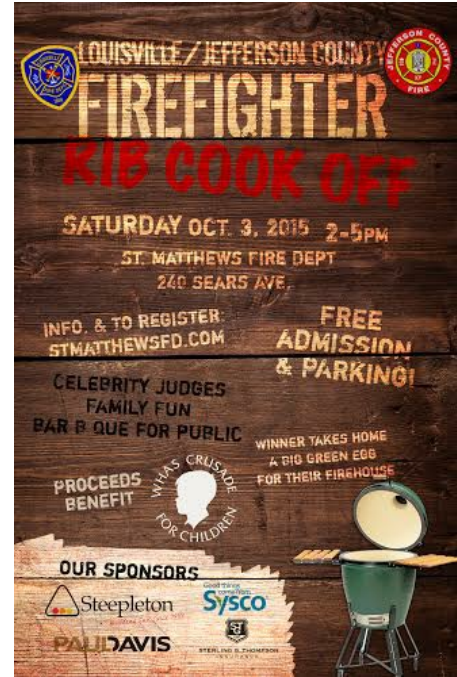


The St. Matthews Fire Department is hosting a rib cook off to raise funds for the Crusade for Children. The event will be held Oct. 3 from 2-5 p.m. at the fire department facility at 240 Sears Avenue.

To get your ribs into the contest, go to stmatthewsfd.com and click on the appropriate link. There is no entry fee, and the ribs will be supplied to you free of charge. Ribs will be made available to

teams two days prior to the contest so they can be prepared. SMFD asks that each team begin the smoking process on-site no later than 6 a.m. the day of the competition. WHAS 11 News will be reporting live for their morning broadcast and would like to see all teams working.

Other food and drink will be available for purchase along with the ribs, and family friendly activities are planned. Invite your family and friends, and let's raise some money for the children.



Reach Alert

Continued from p. 1

community service notifications. Examples of community service notifications include advance notice of leaf pick up, city newsletters, reminders about community events like Halloween in Brown Park, Light Up St. Matthews, and the Street Festival, City Hall office closings, reminders to pay taxes by October 31 for the 40% discount, and reminders of garbage collection changes due to holidays. The City does not expect to send out messages

daily, but only as situations dictate.

Residents are able to sign up online at www.reachalert.com or by making a quick call to Reach Alert at 502-235-9697. Registration only takes a minute or two. A link may also be found on the stmatthewsky.gov website.

Though the City works hard to ensure emergencies do not happen, it is reassuring to know that if they do, you will have immediate access to information.

SMFD Class 1 rating

Continued from p. 1

supply and excellent system maintenance. The final 10 points were due the Metrosafe Communications (911) team, which dispatches SMFD personnel and equipment to fires and fire hazards.

The award, which is an indication of the great service SMFD provides St. Matthews residents, may also provide a bonus for industrial and commercial businesses. Beginning Sept. 1, it is possible that these businesses may be eligible for rate reductions on their insurance policies due to this change in rating from ISO Class 2 to ISO Class 1.

"The St. Matthews Fire District has worked very hard to attain this first class rating from the Insurance Services Office and our staff is honored by this acknowledgment," said Fire Chief William Seng. "As the fifth ISO Class 1 district in Metro Louisville, and one of very few in the entire country, the St. Matthews Fire District along with its accreditation has reached an elite level that many fire departments strive to reach. Our firefighters and neighboring fire districts deserve a huge amount of recognition for making this rating possible, and I thank them for their hard work and commitment to providing our residents with a great service."

Seasons Greetings

Beargrass Historical Society

Images of America

It's a wrap! The vintage images have been selected and the texts sent to be proofread and edited. John Findling and Tom Morton are relaxing after months of

interviewing and collecting information for the upcoming book, *Images of America: St. Matthews*.

The expectation is that Arcadia Publishing Company will have this jewel ready for

holiday gift giving. Of course there will be fanfare from the publishing company, the historical society, and the city to announce the arrival of our own St. Matthews family album as the time approaches.

Alexander Hamilton Historical Society of Kentucky

The Alexander Hamilton Historical Society of Kentucky (AHHS) meets in the second-floor meeting room of the St. Matthews-Eline Library. All meetings are free and open to the public and begin at 10:30 a.m.

Upcoming meeting topics include:

Aug. 15

AHHS member Bill Riley will review *The Battle for New York: the City at the Heart of*

the Revolution, by Barnet Schecter. The campaign of 1776 turned the city into a series of battlefields, including the forgotten battlefield of New York.

Sept. 19

AHHS member Senator Scott W. Miller will review a book on



John Paul Jones, Scottish American sailor and "Father of the United States Navy."

Oct. 17

Dr. Aaron Hoffman, a Bellarmine University political science professor, will cover the Thomas Jefferson and John Marshall chapter from the book *The Supreme Court: The Personalities and Rivalries that Defined America*, by Jeffrey Rosen.

The Woman's Club of St. Matthews

The Woman's Club of St. Matthews is hosting programs in August and September at the St. Matthews Community Center, 310 Ten Pin Lane. For additional information, contact Woman's Club President Bev Potts at 896-6575.

Aug. 24, time TBA

The St. Matthews Woman Club will be holding an open house for women of all ages who may be interested in

membership or just finding out more about the club, its history, members' involvement in the community, educational programs, and volunteerism. Light refreshments will be served.

Sept. 28, 11 a.m.

A free program, open to the public, will be presented by St. Matthew City Councilwoman Mary Jo Nay on the topic of organ and tissue donation.

Included in the program will be speakers from the Circuit Court Clerk's Trust for Life, the transplant support organization Second Chance at Life, and persons who have received and/or have had family members involved in transplantation. This program is recommended for persons of all ages. No registration is required.



Washburn Quiet Zone improvements within reach



Cornerstone Engineering Inc. was awarded the bid for the improvement of the railroad crossing on Washburn and has been coordinating schedules

with CSX. Since construction on Washburn will require the road to be completely closed for five days, the goal is to schedule the work required by CSX and by the contractor concurrently so that there is only one road closure.

Materials are currently being ordered by the contractor so that the job can begin immediately when CSX gives the word. The project team is pushing to advance construction so that it is performed before school begins.

Free computer tune-up at St. Matthews library

A free computer tune-up and repair service continues to be offered the first Saturday of each month at the St. Matthews library from 1-4 p.m.

If you have a desktop computer, bring only the

computer, as the technicians will have a mouse, keyboard, and monitor on site. There is no charge for the service, and if you need parts to complete a repair, they will show you where you can purchase them

and do the installation for you. The service will take place in the second floor meeting room. For more information, visit Computertuneupandrepair.weebly.com.

Good Neighboring

Yard waste containers

Yard waste in plastic bags will no longer be collected. Yard waste must be placed in reusable containers or biodegradable bags. Free yard waste stickers are available at City Hall.

Mowing reminders

When mowing your yard, don't forget to take care of the grass alleyways adjacent to your yard. Please aim the mower so that grass clippings do not blow into the street, sidewalk, or your neighbor's driveway.

Pet peeves

Barking dogs can be disruptive to sleep, a lawn party, or the simple enjoyment a peaceful day. If you have a dog that barks incessantly, take steps to silence him for the sake of your neighbors.

If you walk your dogs, keep them on a leash at all times and make sure to take along some baggies to pick up after them.



Garbage cans

Wait to set out your garbage cans until the night before

Rumke picks up. Put

cans away promptly to prevent them from blowing into the street or a neighbor's yard. Besides pleasing your neighbors, keeping garbage cans hidden improves the overall aesthetics of the neighborhood.

Watch for children

School begins Aug. 12. Please watch for children walking to school and waiting for buses. You may not be able to



see them around cars. Make a special effort to watch for children crossing to board a bus and do not go around the bus when its stop sign is extended. Obey the speed limit and school crossing guards.

Report speeding

If you perceive that someone is speeding through the neighborhood, report them through the City website at stmatthewsky.gov or the Call St., Matthews 24/7 system at 638-4STM (4786), option 2, option 5.

Hot cars

Don't leave pets or children in parked cars where the temperature can soar in just a couple of minutes. In 2014, 31 children died from heatstroke in the U.S. after being left in a parked car.

Your Works at Work

What a spring! Rain fall totals for the months of March, April, May, and June were over 23 inches, but, through it all, much was accomplished, including:

- Ruts and dead grass caused by snow removal corrected and restored
- Storm debris removed
- Patched pot holes on many city streets
- Trimming, landscaping, mulching, and planting performed throughout city
- Completed new tree planting for 2015, increasing the tree canopy by 100
- Repaired and upgraded City buildings
- Completed maintenance checks on all irrigation systems
- Sherburn Lane – cleaned out drainage ditch

- Removed graffiti from city garages on Thierman Lane
- Blenheim Road – new drainage system with 150 feet of pipe and three catch basins installed to combat a continuous drainage concern with water over-topping driveways and roads
- Girard Drive – 19-inch log and other debris removed from 21-inch storm pipe, restoring previously blocked flow
- Eline Avenue – two sections of buckled sidewalk removed and replaced
- North Bonner – ditch regrading required to eliminate ponding water
- Warner Avenue – drainage issue completed
- Williamsburg Court – drainage project completed
- Lake Avenue and

Washburn Avenue – drainage ditch repaired

Community Park

Multiple fallen and/or severely distressed trees were removed. Replacement trees are planned for next planting season. Crews have spruced up the Community Center by

trimming trees and shrubs, weeding, power washing the patio and walkways, and painting.

Brown Park

Mulching has been completed. Crews will continue to maintain the park with routine weeding, planting, trash collection, and mowing. The emergency call station has been installed.

Draut Park

Crews were quick to remove the large amount of storm debris and clean the existing walking trails following the large storms.

Camelot Subdivision

In April, the Public Works crews began clearing and regrading the existing storm drainage ditches located within the existing drainage easement along the rear and side yards of many properties in the Camelot area. The final step of this project is the reseeding of the ditch slopes in an effort to establish a manageable ditch.

Upcoming projects

St. Matthews is working with MSD and the City of Lyndon on drainage improvements to the rear yards of properties facing Washburn and Kentucky Avenues. The City also plans to reconstruct an existing

Continued on p. 11



The Public Works Department partnered with Operation Brightside to perform maintenance work at Westport Road and I-264. Pictured here are (L-R) Public Works Director Kenan Stratman, Public Works Supervisor Terry Ridgeway, and Works employees David Hill and Moe Hibbard.

Continued from p. 10

overflow ditch in the Trinity Hills area.

Future improvements in Brown Park include constructing a signature wall in front of the sign at the park's northeast corner and leveling the brick pavers surrounding the pavilion.

Easement maintenance

The City would like to emphasize that property owners are required to maintain all easements. Although many rear fences follow the easement line at the top of the ditch, property

owners are responsible for mowing the grass to the bottom of the ditch, as this area is part of their lot. Illegal dumping of grass clippings, leaves, brush, and tree limbs are in violation of the Clean Water Act, a citable offence.

New traffic signs will provide added safety

To comply with Federal Highway Administration standards

and improve safety for the residents of St. Matthews, the City is increasing the visibility of its traffic signs. The sign maintenance program will address retroreflectivity and the general condition of signs, including size, color, letter style, and height.

Retroreflectivity is a term used to describe how light is reflected off a surface and returns to its original source. Traffic sign

materials now use technology with small glass beads or prismatic reflectors that allow light from vehicles to be reflected back to the car, making the sign appear brighter and more visible to the driver.

Besides incorporating more retroreflective material, stop signs will be larger and taller. All stop signs and poles will be replaced with a 12-foot black decorative pole and a 30-inch stop sign located seven feet from the ground. All street name signs will be replaced with a 15-foot decorative pole and a green street name sign of the appropriate size.

The City will implement the sign program in phases over the next four to five years. Macon, from Hillsboro to Grandview, will be the pilot area.

**Hometown History - 2015****THEN**

According to *St. Matthews – The Crossroads of Beargrass* by Samuel W. Thomas, the building at left is Bob Colglazier's Ranch House as it appeared in 1953. To the right are the St. Matthews Frozen Food Locker and the East Drive-In Theatre.

NOW

This property is now the 5000 Block of Shelbyville Road. Some of the original property was taken to develop I-264.



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

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Your Elected Officials for the City of St. Matthews:

Mayor Richard J. Tonini

City Council

Bernard Bowling

Frank Flynn

Tim Holland

Stuart Monohan

Mary Jo Nay

Martha Schade

Tony Weiter

Patrick Wissing

**Council meetings begin at 7 p.m. on
the second and fourth Tuesday of
each month.**

City Council meeting minutes are
online at www.stmatthewsky.gov.

E-CONNECTION

To submit your email address to
receive important St. Matthews
updates, visit the city website at
www.stmatthewsky.gov or call city
offices. Email addresses will not be
shared with other parties.

Need to know?

Call St. Matthews

Automated Service

24/7 Information Line

638-4STM (4786)

Administration Press 1

Services Press 2

News Press 3

Police Press 4

Government Access

City Hall Office: 895-9444

Code Enforcement: 899-2512

Police Department: 893-9000

City Engineer: 899-2518

Property Taxes: 899-2511

Police Records: 899-2537

Anonymous Tip Line:
498-CLUE
(2583)

Emergency: 911