



St. Matthews Living

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

FEBRUARY 2020

Jack Ruf—One Man, Many Hats

When you talk to Jack Ruf it is easy to be reminded of the old skits where a bank teller wearing a visor walks off the stage to “get the manager” and returns with a bowler hat on his head asking how he can be of service. With Jack’s roles as Planning and Zoning Officer, Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Administrator, Sign Officer, and Code Enforcement Officer, the City has found its literal Jack-of-all-trades.

Jack started his career with the Metro Planning Commission in 1977 and worked there for more than 30 years before retiring in 2008. During his time there, he completed a master’s degree in Community Development and became a nationally certified land use planner.

To stay ahead of the current trends and issues the City faces on a daily basis, Jack maintains his certification through continuing education and research.

Jack was hired by former Mayor Bernie Bowling in 2008 to review the City’s development and rezoning

plans. “Because the City Council has final authority on any request for rezoning property, one of my roles is to review the official record compiled by the Metro Planning Commission,” said Jack. With each rezoning request, the Metro Planning Commission makes its



recommendation to the City Council, and the Council decides whether the zoning change is good for the City. It is Jack’s job to search the Metro Comprehensive Plan—a set of guidelines used to justify rezoning—for legal support of the Council’s decision. Often, the site plan is

contingent on “binding elements”—conditions of the site plan that must be carried out by the land developer to bind the development. Jack looks at the binding elements and explains to the Council how they will protect the neighbors and the City.

Under the hat of ABC

Administrator, Jack is responsible for reviewing applications to sell alcohol in St. Matthews and for seeing that they are renewed annually. Before a state license can be approved, the City has to approve the license. To be qualified for these duties, Jack added to the knowledge he gained from planning and zoning regulations by studying the laws governing alcohol control. He continues to keep his knowledge current. “We do have the right to revoke a license if there is a violation, but, fortunately, I’ve not had to take that measure,” said Jack.

As Sign Officer, Jack reviews applications for sign permits as required by City ordinance. He ensures that the sign falls within the permitted size and is placed at the correct height and location. He also makes sure the number of signs

Continued on page 11

A Message From...

Jefferson County to Reassess Property in May 2020



The Jefferson County Property Valuation Administration will reassess all properties in 2020 beginning the first Monday in May. Under state law KRS 133.120, property owners may contest their reassessments by completing a PVA online conference during the annual open inspection period. To help residents learn more about contesting their

reassessment and about the process itself, the PVA office will hold a meeting on Thursday, March 12, at 6:30 p.m. at the St. Matthews Community Center, located at 310 Ten Pin Lane. Come ready to learn about the reassessment process and to ask your questions. To Contact PVA directly, dial 502-574-6380.

Sign up for Reach Alert notifications

St. Matthews would like to better communicate with you by providing immediate information regarding a number of potential situations. If you register for REACH Alert, you will be able to receive messages from the City via multiple formats.

To register, go to www.reachalert.com and click on the blue text, "Create an account." When prompted, please use the following information to register for our Network: Network Name: St. Matthews (city); Role: Resident or Business; Address: Enter the

address in first box and the street name in the second box. You may also call Reach Alert to sign up at 1-877-307-9313.

Sign up and keep informed!



Hometown History 1942

This feature spotlights a moment in time when our city looked a lot different. Where do you think this picture was taken? See page 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



New Ordinance

In accordance with the new Ordinance regarding

nuisances, property maintenance, and public health and safety, the following should be noted regarding recycling:

- Recycling containers must be securely lidded.
- The City does not allow "open composting" and all compost bins must have a secure lid.
- No recycling items shall be placed out for collection in view of a public street more than 24 hours prior to the collection day. The containers for such items must be removed from view of any public street within 24 hours after the day of collection.

Also note that mattresses and cloth furniture will only be picked up if they are wrapped in plastic.

Curbside Reminders from Rumpke

Rumpke would like to provide a few relevant waste and recycling tips:

- Fireplace Embers - Embers that are not properly extinguished can reignite. Please soak them in water prior to disposal.
- Cans Not Pans - Empty aluminum and steel cans can be recycled; however, aluminum pie/roasting pans are not accepted.
- Used Cooking Oil - Rumpke does not accept liquids in curbside waste. Please ensure any oils are solidified prior to disposal.

Rumpke offers the following tips for disposing of potentially hazardous materials:

- Check the label: If the container is labeled

"Danger" or

"Poison", this is an indication of hazardous waste which cannot be recycled in your trash or recycling container.

- Review service guidelines: Find them on the City website at www.stmatthewsky.gov or at www.rumpke.com.
- Items not approved for residential waste stream: tires, batteries, paint, fuel tanks, liquids, electronics, medical waste, hazardous chemicals, fluorescent lights, and Freon/refrigerant. For more information go to louisvilleky.gov/government/public-works/services/recycling.



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.

February 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

March 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Police Beat

Staying Professional Graduation Day

Sgt. Eddie Parsons became the most recent graduate of The Southern Police Institute (Class 142) after an intense 13-week academic challenge at one of the country's top ranked law enforcement educational and training schools in the nation. The Southern Police Institute is a division of the Department of Criminal Justice in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Louisville. It is an advanced education and



Sgt. Eddie Parsons, third from left, graduates from The Southern Police Institute at U of L.

training institute whose mission is to enhance the professional development of law enforcement practitioners. They accomplish this mission by providing educational and career development programs that are designed to challenge and to prepare law enforcement practitioners for the demands of today and tomorrow.

The Southern Police Institute is ranked consistently among

the top law enforcement educational and training schools in the nation. Sergeant Parsons performed well academically and was highly admired by his peers for his dedication and assistance to his class members.

St. Matthews Police Department Re-Accreditation

The St. Matthews Police Department is currently reviewing and updating its policies for the purpose of re-accreditation. The police department has been

accredited through the Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police for several years. In order to be recognized as an accredited agency, police departments must adopt policies and procedures that

are considered best practices in policing today. Once an agency is accredited, it will keep that status for a period of 5 years. SMPD is due for an audit in January 2020. The Department has made a conscious decision to be a professional agency whose policy and procedures fit standard law enforcement practices and have implemented those policies

along with training its members in their use.

Top-notch Facilities

The Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training has selected SMPD as one of its training locations for 2020. The DOCJT will be utilizing SMPD's newly renovated training classroom throughout the year to provide mandatory classes for law enforcement agencies in Kentucky.

Recognizing Achievement



St. Matthews Police Chief Barry Wilkerson displays the Department's traffic safety award.

In January 2020, SMPD will be hosting its 2nd annual awards banquet. Officers will be recognized for outstanding performances over and beyond their normal course of duty.

In December, SMPD was recognized by AAA East Central for the Community Traffic Safety Awards Program. This is the third consecutive year that SMPD has earned the award

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

and the first year of reaching the Gold Award status. The traffic safety awards are presented to communities for their efforts to improve local traffic safety.

Award levels are Commendation, Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum with various requirements to meet each level.

Some of the SMPD activities AAA used in the consideration of this year's award were:

- Traffic enforcement addressing speeding and seat belt compliance through a state funded overtime grant.
- The Helmet Smart Bicycle Safety Program that rewards children for wearing a helmet while riding a bicycle and provided over 50 helmets to children observed riding without a helmet.
- Every St. Matthews Police officer participated in

Emergency Response Driver Training. This training included skills such as high-speed backing, an obstacle backing course, high speed driving course and a vehicle pursuit driving course.

In 2020, SMPD will continue to participate with AAA East Central to improve the safety of drivers in St. Matthews. Hopefully, soon, the Department will gain Platinum Status.

Crime Buzz

Prevent Car Theft

The St. Matthews Police Department reminds drivers that leaving vehicles running while unattended increases the risk that they will be stolen.

Following are a few simple steps to reduce the risk of losing your car to an opportunistic thief:

Stay with the car: It's better to be cold for a few minutes in your car while it warms up than to be left in the cold when a thief drives it away.

Get a remote starter: Remote starters are the safest and only legal way to keep your car running while unattended. With

the key out of the ignition, a thief can't put the car in gear.

ID This Person

Check out www.idthisperson.com if you believe you can ID a criminal. New pictures are posted daily. Anonymous tipsters may receive a \$25 reward.



SMPD Works with Shop Owners to Catch Shoplifters

In 2019, St. Matthews had a 34% decrease in violent crimes, but a 13% increase in larceny (thefts), due mainly to shoplifting. Mall St. Matthews is the third largest mall in Kentucky, and with more shoppers come more shoplifters. To help decrease shoplifting incidents, SMPD began working with store managers and owners, teaching them to become proactive when they learn merchandise has been stolen. In the past, shop owners would wait until an inventory was performed to count their losses; SMPD has encouraged them to report the crime

when it happens. The good news is that shop owners are doing that, and, thus, reported larceny crimes have increased dramatically this year. But the best news is that because the crimes are being reported in a timely manner, SMPD has a better chance of catching the shoplifters, which will decrease crimes committed in the future. If you see someone shoplifting in St. Matthews, don't confront the person, but report it right away to a store owner or call SMPD at 502-893-9000.

Crime Statistics

	2018	2019
Murder	0	0
Rape	2	3
Assaults	25	15
Burglaries	72	71
Larceny	724	820
Auto Theft	83	83
Arson	0	0
Robberies	21	16
Total	1,459	1,460

*The total number of crimes include some categories not listed here.

Code Words

Ordinance #19-06 Passed



Late last year, due to its concern about property values and public health and safety, the St. Matthews City Council passed an updated and more comprehensive nuisance and property maintenance ordinance—

Ordinance #19-06.

According to the ordinance, its purpose is “to provide for the abatement of conditions considered to be offensive, detrimental to property values and community appearance, an obstruction to or interference with the comfortable enjoyment of adjacent property or premises, or hazardous or

injurious to the health, safety or welfare of the general public, and to provide reasonable standards to safeguard life, health and public welfare.”

The ordinance has a thorough definitions section to assist everyone in understanding what is and is not viewed as a nuisance or other violation, along with a section concerning property maintenance standards. The City’s expectations are followed by a section on enforcement and penalties.

Enforcement may be carried out by Code Enforcement Officers or by City of St. Matthews Police Department officers. When an officer learns of a nuisance condition, notice is given to the resident to remedy or abate the condition along with a time frame for taking action, based upon the nature of the condition. Failure to remedy or abate a nuisance condition

may result in fines beginning at \$50 per each day that a violation continues, and may accumulate to as much as \$6,000 for the same or similar violations.

If the officer determines that the severity of the violation warrants immediate action, the officer may have the violation remedied or abated in accordance with state law by using City labor and materials. The City will create a lien against the property for the reasonable value of the labor and materials used and can pursue court action if appropriate.

As is the case in the vast majority of the City’s enforcement efforts, compliance, not punishment, is the goal. Being mindful of how each of us affects our neighbors goes a long way to keeping St. Matthews the kind of City where everyone wants to live.

Trinity rocks state football championship 26th time



Councilmen Mary Jo Nay and Tim Holland help Trinity High School Football Coach Bob Beatty (center), hold the new city street sign proclaiming Trinity 2019 state football champs.

St. Matthews’ Trinity High School has won the most AAA high school football titles in Kentucky history with 26. In 2019, they celebrated their latest win, defeating Louisville’s Male High School 28-6.

Trinity has a 50-game win streak to its credit and has not gone longer than seven years without winning a state championship since winning its first title in 1968. Three times Trinity

has won three straight titles, including four in a row from 2005-2008. Under current coach Bob Beatty, the Shamrocks have won 14 state titles in the past 19 seasons.



St. Matthews-Eline Library: Check it out!

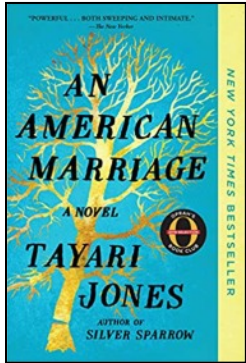


Minature Marvels

On February 1-2, come see the miniature marvels of the Louisville Miniature Club in this all day event bound to delight both children and adults.

Adult Book Discussions

The third Thursday of the month, the library holds an adult book discussion at 1 p.m. February's book is *An American Marriage* by



Tayari Jones.

The Night Owls Adult Book Discussion is held the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. February's

book is *Boy Snow Birdy* by Helen Oyeyemi.

Storytimes

Baby Storytimes are held Thursdays at 10:15 a.m. Toddler Storytimes are held on Wednesdays at

10:15 a.m. and Thursdays at 11:15 a.m. Pre-School Storytimes are held on Wednesdays at 11:15 a.m.

Tail Waggin' Tutors

Children may practice their reading skills by reading for 15



minutes to a certified therapy or comfort dog on the third Thursday of

each month from 4:00–5:00 p.m. Call to reserve your 15 minute slot at 502-574-1771.

Café Louis

Meet your local legislators on Saturday, February 29, from 9:00–10:00 a.m. for an informal discussion.

Bowman Field—Louisville's Historical Airport

On Wednesday, March 18, Charlie Arrington of the Filson Historical Society will help us look back over

a century of history as Bowman Field turns 100 this May.



Computer repair

FREE computer tune-up and repair service will be offered the first Saturday of the month from 1–4 p.m. Help will be limited to the first five persons to make a reservation at taylor_rae@hotmail.com. Participants should bring a mouse and charger if they have a laptop. For more information, see <https://Computer.tuneupandrepair.weebly.com/>.

Good Neighboring



Leash Your Dog!

Unless pet owners are in an area designated as a dog park, they are required keep their dogs leashed AT ALL TIMES.

According to the American Animal Hospital Association,

about \$5 million people in the U.S. are bitten by dogs annually. Keeping a dog on a leash is a sure way to avoid the injuries that cost Americans an average \$39,000 per insurance claim in 2018, according to Trusted Choice Insurance.

Besides the safety and financial benefit of keeping a dog leashed, City of St. Matthews residents are reminded that, per Chapter 91.02 of the City of St. Matthews Code of Ordinances, keeping a

dog leashed is the law. The ordinance states: "All animals shall be kept under restraint at all times. No person shall permit any dog to run at large anywhere out of doors in the City, except upon the property of the owner." The ordinance also reminds pet owners that the person holding the leash must be able to control the dog.

Be kind to your neighbor – leash your dog!

Season's Greetings

Alexander Hamilton Historical Society of Kentucky

The Alexander Hamilton Historical Society of Kentucky meets every 3rd Saturday of the month at 10:30 a.m. The meetings are located in the Masonic Home at 3701 Frankfort Avenue. At the gatehouse, turn right at the stop sign. Take the first right into the Meadow building parking lot. The meetings take place in the Artisan room. As always, AHHS meetings are open to the public.

February 8

The 2020 Symposium will be held at Bellarmine University.

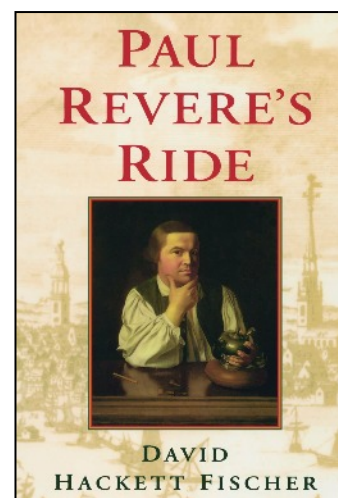
Frank J. Colucci, Associate Professor of Political Science at Purdue University North-east will speak on "Liberty and the Constitution." Please note this is the second Saturday in February and will be at Bellarmine University's Cralle Theatre, Wyatt Center for the Arts. For the balance of the year, we will return to our regular meeting place as noted above.

March 21

Dr. Richard Werking will review the book *The British Are Coming* by Rick Atkinson.

April 18

Jack Brammer will review *Paul Revere's Ride* by David Hackett Fischer.



Woman's Club of St. Matthews



The Woman's Club of St. Matthews (WCSM) meets at the St. Matthews Community Center, 310 Ten Pin Lane. Programs begin at 10:30 a.m. and are free and open to the public, unless stated otherwise. For more information, contact the club president at 445-3040 or visit their website at wscsm.org.

February 10

A workshop will be held to create mini spring florals to be distributed to seniors and shut-ins in our community. No experience required. All materials provided.

March 23

Speaker Ms. Layla George, CEO & President of the

Olmsted Parks Conservancy, will give a presentation on their mission, history, and endeavors.



April 27

A luncheon will be held to celebrate our club birthday and the Kentucky Derby. A reservation and luncheon fee is required.

Open Invitation

We look forward to meeting any woman in Kentuckiana who may be interested in joining our club. We are a friendly group and welcome new members. To learn more about the club and see some of the things we do, visit our informative website at wscsm.org or contact Membership Chairman Lynn Bridwell at 502-553-6481.

Park Place

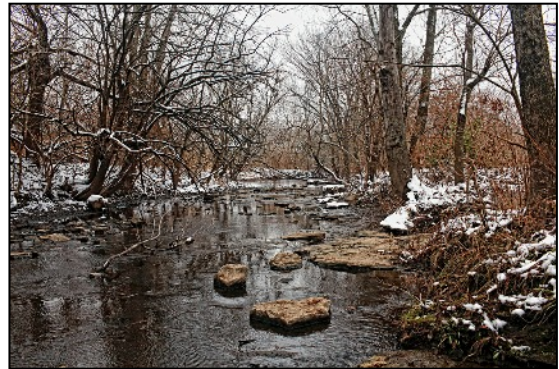
Draut Park project

The City has contracted with Redwing Ecological Services to handle the Draut Park Flood Control Basin Maintenance and Streambank Stabilization Project. The goal of the project is to remove collected sediments from the large flood control basin located within the southwest portion of Arthur K. Draut Park along Bowling Boulevard and to

stabilize approximately 1,300 feet of eroded streambank along Middle Fork Beargrass Creek.

Redwing will coordinate the necessary regulatory approval to implement the proposed project. As part of the project, the City will remove some of the woody invasive species that are shading out native, deep-rooted

plant species that are important for establishing long-term streambank stability.



Hot Off the Press



Hear the beep where you sleep

Location matters when it comes to your smoke alarm. Firefighters and safety advocates nationwide agree that every house needs a working smoke alarm in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.

"In a fire, seconds count," said Chief William Seng of the St. Matthews Fire District. "Half of home fire deaths result from fires reported at night between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. when most people are asleep. Home smoke alarms can alert people to a fire

before it spreads, giving everyone enough time to get out."

According to the latest National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) research, working smoke alarms cut the chance of dying in a fire in half. Meanwhile, three out of five fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

Read the following important smoke alarm messages:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home. This way, when one sounds, they all do.
- Test alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old, or sooner if they don't respond properly.
- Make sure everyone in the home knows the sound of the smoke alarm and understands what to do when they hear it.

- If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.
- Call the fire department from outside the home.

Did you know that roughly 3 out of 5 fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms? Contact the St. Matthews Fire District at 893-7825 to set up an appointment for assistance with a home fire safety inspection, checking for proper smoke alarm operation, to schedule a smoke alarm installation, or for any fire safety questions.



Your Works at Work

This period the following has been accomplished:

Completed Projects

- Leaf Removal: Our Works Crews worked very diligently this year to stay on top of the leaves as they fell. Each year it appears that the leaves fall later and later, so next year look for the signs on your block to designate when the first leaf pick up will be on your block.
- Snow and Ice Removal: The City of St. Matthews operates a comprehensive snow removal program. Mother Nature has not hit us that hard this year. With smaller snow events, in an effort to be fiscally responsible, the City will only salt the intersections. All major roads—Shelbyville, Westport, Hubbards, Browns, Bowling, and Breckenridge—are the responsibility of Metro and the State.
- Removed storm debris throughout the City from multiple storms.
- Patched pot holes on many City streets.
- Installed new street signs in the Windhurst and Warwick neighborhoods.
- Installed a new roof on the 201 Thierman Lane (Old City Hall) property.

Current Projects (Spring & Summer 2020)

- Drainage improvement project in 4000 Block of Winchester Road.
- Drainage improvement project in 3600 Block of St. Germaine Court.
- Drainage improvements in the rear of the 500 Block of Kentucky Avenue (jointly with MSD).
- Drainage and sidewalk project on Massie Avenue (Ridgeway to Cherrywood).
- Trinity Hills culvert replacement.
- Sidewalk tripping hazard elimination project.
- Street sign replacement project – ongoing.
- Stump grinding and replanting of street trees in public rights of way.

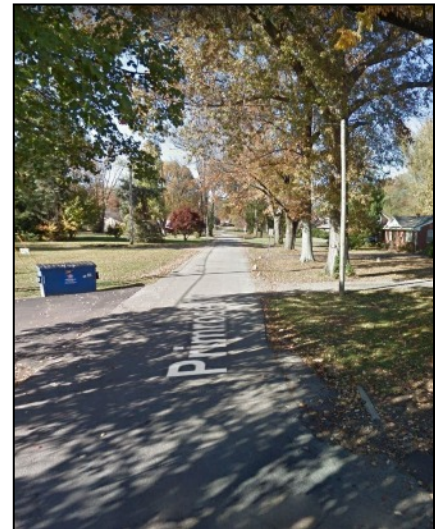
Future Projects

- Sprucing up the Parks: Crews will clean up landscaped areas, re-mulch, and plant trees. Storm debris is always an issue in the parks following winter and spring flooding.

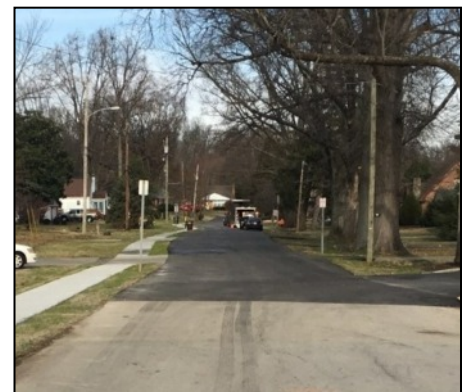
Primrose Project

After many years of hard work, the City has completed the Primrose Roadway and Drainage Project. The project included straightening and

widening the road to two lanes, as well as putting in sidewalks and a drainage system at a total cost of \$216,400. Mayor Tonini and the City Council are pleased with the outcome as it meets one of their main goals—to make needed improvements that address safety and quality of life not only for the residents of St. Matthews, but also for its visitors.



Primrose Drive before the project began.



Primrose Drive at the completion of the project.

Jack Ruf

Continued from page 1

each establishment has meets ordinance standards.

Jack shares his last hat—that of Code Enforcement Officer—with colleague Daryl Cleary. Together, they are responsible for following up on many of the codes found in St. Matthews' Code of Ordinances. While not authorized to take action for moving vehicle violations or to make arrests, Jack and Daryl are responsible for enforcing the proper maintenance of property. Among other things, they deal with

high grass and weeds, illegal parking, structures built too close to property lines, and fences that are too tall.

While the City's goal is to help residents become compliant, residents can be cited and fined if they do not choose to comply. Jack said that their first step is to check to see if there is a violation and to explain the violation to the resident. Next, the resident is given options to correct the problem. "We work with people. We don't stand there and say do it right now.

We ask when they can get it done. If the timeframe seems reasonable, we give them the chance to comply and check up on the situation afterwards," said Jack.

No matter which hat he's wearing, Jack said his whole goal is to provide a service to the public. "I work with some really fine people at the City, and, likewise, the residents of St. Matthews are wonderful. I want to make sure St. Matthews remains a great place to live and work."

SeniorCare Experts always needs volunteers

Volunteers for seniors are always needed to help drive seniors to appointments, to deliver food to

seniors, and even to do small jobs around their homes. If you have some extra time, take some of it

to help these citizens who have given so much to our community. To volunteer, call 502-896-2316.

Give to St. MAM while you shop

Community Rewards

It's easy to support St. MAM while you shop at Kroger! Simply register your Kroger Plus Card at [kroger.com/community-rewards](https://www.kroger.com/community-rewards) and sign in to your Kroger Plus account. Then, select St.

Matthews Area Ministries ([VJ133](#)) and you're done! Thank you for supporting St. MAM while you shop!

Amazon Smile

Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchases to St. MAM whenever

you shop at Amazon Smile. You get the same selection as Amazon just with the added bonus of donating back to your favorite charity.

Hometown History - 2020

THEN

The photo featured on page 2 shows North Hubbards Lane leading up to the railroad tracks.

NOW

The same view today passes through whole neighborhoods before it reaches Woodlawn Shopping Center on the right.



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

STD PRST
U.S. Postage
PAID
Louisville, KY
Permit #976



**Your Elected Officials for
the City of St. Matthews:**

Mayor Richard J. Tonini

City Council

Bernard Bowling

Cathi Clark

Frank Flynn

Tim Holland

Stuart Monohan

Mary Jo Nay

Amy Olson

Tony Weiter

City 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.

Reach Alert

**To receive
emergency and/or
community
service notifications
through**

**St. Matthews'
Reach Alert system,
sign up at
www.reachalert.com
or call**

1-877-307-9313.

Government Access

City Hall Office: 895-9444

Code Enforcement: 899-2512

Police Department: 893-9000

City Engineer: 899-2518

Public Works: 899-2517

Property Taxes: 899-2511

Police Records: 899-2537

Emergency: 911

