

# St. Matthews Líving

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.

MAY 2020

### St. Matthews shares hope during pandemic

Over the past several months, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has presented an unprecedented challenge to the world's health and economy, and St. Matthews residents have met this challenge with strength and hope.

It is the same hope Kentucky poet Wendell Berry talks about in *A Poem on Hope* when he says that hope is caring for the place you belong to and that you "belong to your place by knowledge of the others who are your neighbors in it."



It is the hope that the Spoelker family had when they decided to donate a meal to families at the Ronald McDonald

House. When Doug and Chelsea Spoelker lost their daughter, Stella, to a genetic disease a few years ago, they stayed near their daughter at the Ronald McDonald House in Cincinnati. Just before the pandemic hit, Doug became a junior member of RMH's Louisville board. When they saw that RMH needed food donations during the pandemic, they worked with Doug's father, Dave Spoelker, who is a catering ambassador at



Chelsea Spoelker (right) and her mother, Elise Luckey sew face masks for those who need them.

Salsarita's, to get a meal delivered to the families sheltered there. Chelsea said, "Stella had a big impact on both Doug and me. The current needs are very real to us, so we want to do anything we can in any way that we can."

That willingness to do anything to help led Chelsea to another opportunity. Chelsea's father, Bill Luckey, is the president of Lindsey Wilson College in Columbia, Kentucky. When the pandemic hit, some students could not go home. Campus staff staying with the students needed face masks, so Chelsea's mom, Elise, asked her if

she'd like to help sew them.
Between them, they've made more than 200 masks, which they've donated not only to college staff, but to St. Matthews area doctors, friends and family, children with auto immune diseases, and even doctors in New York. "Growing up, my mom sewed everything for us, from curtains to costumes," said Chelsea, "so she had plenty of fabric and even elastic, though we did end up ordering some more."

Others in the St. Matthews community making face masks got creative when it came to supplies. When Norma McCubbins' daughter, who lives in Maryland, ran out of elastic, she sent Norma her face

mask pattern.
"I had plenty
of elastic, and
when I ran
out, I used
ribbon for
ties," Norma
said. Norma
has made
more than
100 masks,
and donated



Norma McCubbins sews face masks for an area nursing home.

them to a nursing home in St. Matthews. "My son died last June, and I got a lot of help from my church and other people," she said.

Continued on page 6

### A Message From...

## St. Matthews: Up to the Challenge

We are experiencing an unprecedented time in our country. Few people, or entities, were prepared to endure the challenges that Covid-19 has presented. Please know that the St. Matthews City leaders have taken actions to protect our residents,

employees, and visitors, all while keeping the City of St. Matthews services operational.

While residents stay "Healthy at Home," waiting for the pandemic to pass, City leaders ask that they extend patience, kindness, and a smile, even in the most challenging moments. Local businesses continue

to support residents by remaining open to provide services. If possible, safely support nearby restaurants and retail shops by placing carry-out or curbside pickup orders. As Americans and Kentuckians, let us keep our focus on the light at the end of the tunnel, and know that WE ARE STRONG.

### St. Matthews Residents Respond to U.S. Census

In mid-March, homes across America began receiving online invitations to complete the 2020 U.S. Census. Thus far, 59.7% of St. Matthews residents have responded, ranking our city 122 out of 415 Kentucky cities. Congratulations to those who have already responded! If you have not yet filled out the census, do so at your earliest opportunity. The census affects everything from school



lunches to plans for highways to support for firefighters and families in need.

If residents are unable to fill out the census online, census takers will go door to door after the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted to interview residents and record their information.

### Hometown History 1938

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**



Make Your Own Hand Sanitizer If you are

If you are running low on hand sanitizer, the

World Health Organization has offered a recipe to make your own. You need the following supplies: Container large enough to hold about 2 cups of liquid; measures for 1 cup, 1 tablespoon, and 1 teaspoon; eye protection,

such as goggles or glasses; and small bottle to hold the finished product. You also need the following ingredients: 1 cup of 99% isopropyl alcohol, 1 tablespoon 3% hydrogen peroxide; 1 teaspoon pure glycerin (purchase in store skincare section); and water.

To make the sanitizer, prepare a safe area that is clear of any open flames. Wear eye protection to prevent accidental injury. Measure the alcohol, peroxide, and glycerin into the container, and

add enough water to create a mixture totaling 1 1/3 cups of product. Stir together. Pour finished product into a storage bottle. Label the bottle "Hand Sanitizer 75%". Store the product in a safe location away from small children, using as needed.



### **Sign Up for Reach Alert Notifications**

If you have not signed up to receive information through Reach Alert about events or situations that may affect St. Matthews, the current pandemic makes it more important than ever that you do so.

You may register to receive information via multiple formats.

Go to www.reachalert.com and click on the blue text, "Create an account." When prompted, use the following information to register: Network Name – St. Matthews (city); Role – Resident or Business; and Address – enter your address in the first box and your street name in the second

box. Creating this account gives you another way to stay connected at a time when you may be feeling isolated. Take a few moments to sign up today!



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.

May 2020							
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31							

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July 2020							
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### **Police Beat**

## Police response during Covid-19

To ensure the safety of its officers and the public during the COVID-19 public health event, the St. Matthews Police Department has made a few changes to its day to day operations:

- The front lobby is closed to the public; however, citizens may contact the SMPD front office via phone at 502-899-2537.
- The fingerprint program has been suspended indefinitely.
- SMPD will no longer respond to non-injury accidents on private property.
- SMPD will respond to hit and runs when suspect information is available.

Rest assured that St. Matthews Police Department officers are still responding to:

- Domestic trouble
- In-progress break-ins
- Burglar alarms
- Robberies
- Missing persons
- Hold-ups

- Suspicious persons
- Disorderly persons
- Sexual assaults
- Injury accidents
- Shots fired

Citizens reporting any of the situations above will be required to give a call back number. The assigned officer will contact the complainant to determine if a physical response is necessary to complete the report.

#### **Fleet Update**

SMPD has added a 2019 Ram 1500 truck to its fleet to be

utilized by its Community Resource
Officer. The Department is also awaiting the arrival of two
2020 Dodge Durangos, which have

fallen victim to COVID-19 manufacturing shut-downs.

#### **Special Thanks**

The SMPD wants to thank local distilleries for graciously donating hand sanitizer to help keep officers and the public safe as SMPD continues to respond to reports of accidents and crimes. Both

Starlight Distillery in Borden, Indiana, and Jeptha Creed Craft Distillery in Shelbyville, Kentucky, donated hand sanitizer.



Jeptha Creed Craft Distillery donates hand sanitizer.



Starlight Distillery employee pours hand sanitizer in jugs for SMPD officers.

### **Crime Buzz**

Though most people are staying at home, and maintaining distance from one another, criminals do not take a break. And warmer weather creates even more opportunity as residents sometimes leave windows open in their cars and

homes. Please remember to lock up your cars and remove valuables from them, especially weapons and keys. If you see suspicious activity, contact the St. Matthews Police Department immediately at 502-893-9000. If you have an emergency, dial 911. With the help of St. Matthews residents, the SMPD has made several arrests of individuals breaking into homes and cars. Please continue to be the ears and eyes of the Department!

### **City Administration Maintains Services**

Covid-19 can't stop the dedicated employees in the City of St. Matthews Administration offices, under the supervision of City Clerk and Treasurer Susan Clark. Said Ms. Clark, "The most special thing about St. Matthews is its sense of community. While there may be times our operations are slightly different than normal, the end result is the same – we remain committed to being of service to you. We may be wearing masks and are saddened by less face-toface interaction, but the focus of our day remains YOU!"

Since the City Hall building is temporarily closed to visitors, those who need to submit documents may give staff members a call to arrange delivery. The staff are happy to accommodate residents as quickly as possible.

#### **City Council Meetings**

City Council meetings, held at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, have been meeting using an online format due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and will continue to do so until further notice. The public is invited to attend these online meetings via electronic devices or by telephone.

For details on attending electronically, visit the City website at http://www.stmatthewsky.gov and click on the Council Meeting Quick Link on the home page.

To attend via telephone, dial 1-408-418-9388 and enter in the following meeting access codes and passwords:

 Second Tuesday council meeting: Access Code – 629 599 019; Password – 67577767 ■ Fourth Tuesday council meeting: Access Code – 629 125 734; Password – 56385442 Note: A limit of 100 users can connect during any given meeting session.

When using an online format for these regularly scheduled meetings, the City is mandated by law to designate them as a "Special Meetings," which means that only items posted on the Special Meeting agenda can be discussed. If you have other issues that you would like to bring to the attention of City government, please contact City Hall during normal business hours, and we will be happy to speak with you.

### **Good Neighboring**



#### **Leash Your Pets**

As you walk your pets, please remember to keep at least 6 feet of distance between yourself and others. Though there is no evidence to suggest pets spread COVID-19 to people, recently the CDC confirmed that animals can contract the disease from humans. Make sure to rein in your pet to maintain a safe distance.

#### **Keep Grass Mowed**

Since most residents are home now, there is plenty of time to mow your yard at a reasonable hour so as not to disturb the neighbors. If your yard work brings you close to neighbors, please remember the 6 feet of distance rule and wear a mask to protect yourself and others.

#### Report Out of Service Streetlights

With residents trying to steer clear of one another due to COVID-19, it is especially important to report out of service streetlights. Some residents are choosing to walk early and late to

avoid the greater than average number of walkers and runners during the day. Please report any streetlight that is not working or is working sporadically.

## Garbage, Recycling, & Yard Waste

Rumpke is following its usual schedule to pick up your garbage, recycling, and yard waste. Don't wait until the last minute to put your cans out by the curb and chance coming into contact with workers who are already risking their health to perform these services. Likewise, don't bring cans out too early. Put them out within 24 hours of pickup and retrieve them the day of pickup.

#### **Pandemic**

#### Continued from page 1

"I'm so glad to get the chance to help someone else.

Likewise, City Councilman Mary Jo Nay has made 130 masks, using t-shirt yarn for ties when she ran out of elastic. Most of her masks have gone to City personnel.

Others are "paying it forward" in other ways. Both Eline Realty and Benchmark Mortgage, members of The Chamber of St. Matthews, provided meals to essential workers. Said Benchmark's David Meek, "About 3 or 4 weeks ago, our office talked about ways we could help, and we felt by supporting local restaurants and feeding those who have to go in to work, we could have a double win." The group bought breakfast for Maryhurst and lunches for both the Louisville police swat team and for Louisville EMS.



Louisville police officers enjoy Mission BBQ courtesy of Benchmark Mortgage.

Other individuals provided meals through KY-Grub4Scubs, a nonprofit set up on Facebook by Louisvillian Connie Coartney to help support medical offices, hospitals, and first responders.

Individuals have also provided support to the St. Matthews community by displaying stuffed animals, rainbow art, and chalk drawings.

Children in St. Matthews began displaying their bears and other animals as symbols of

hope and solidarity. Rainbow drawings by children, which first appeared in Italy, began to grace St. Matthews windows, and chalk drawings blossomed on sidewalks.

Elizabeth Austin's daughters, ages 10, 12, and 14, got the idea to put bears in their window from a cousin they'd been FaceTiming in Oregon. "We thought it would be fun to do the same thing he was doing since we were so far away," said Elizabeth. "One of my daughters is nicknamed Bear, so she has tons of stuffed bears, and we have a big window. We mentioned the idea of bears to my parents, who also live in St. Matthews, and to my cousins in the Highlands so that when we next did a family video call, everyone could see each other's bears."

Families walking with their children have enjoyed discovering new displays and drawings during the long weeks of confinement and have made a game of counting the rainbows. Some of these drawings and displays were photographed by



Diane Buddell, who walks her neighborhood every day and graciously shared her pictures with us. "I put a bear on my own front door," she

said. "My daughter loved teddy bears when she was young, and I found a Care Bear with a rainbow on it. It's a sign of compassion."

Businesses have also provided signs of support. When Norton Women's & Children's Hospital Assistant Nurse Manager Amy Hancock shared her desire to create a window display to inspire those in the hospital as well as those passing by on Dutchman's Lane, St. Matthews resident and oncology nurse



Jennifer Iles, a registered nurse at Norton Women's & Children's Hospital, helps paint a window on her day off.

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#### Continued from page 6

Jennifer Iles jumped in with both feet. Jennifer said, "The next day, I, along with Amy and 14 other Norton employees, came prepared with tape, brushes, and paint, ready to donate a few hours of our day to help our unit create this beautiful work of art."

The message inspiring the painting, "Stay safe, and keep the faith," is one that President & CEO of Norton Healthcare Russell Cox has shared with employees since the pandemic began.

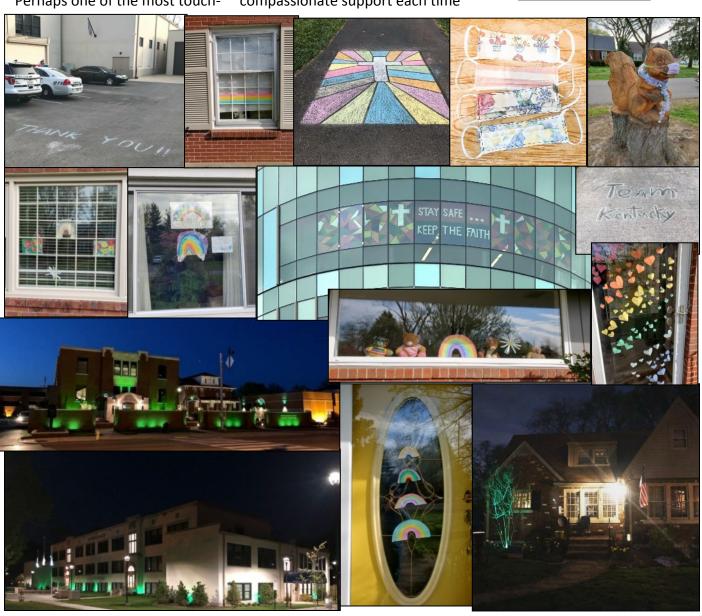
Perhaps one of the most touch-

ing signs of community support has come at the direction of Governor Andy Beshear who asked Kentuckians to display green lights as a show of compassion for those who have lost friends and family to COVID-19. When this article was written, Kentucky had confirmed 3,192 cases of COVID-19, resulting in 171 deaths. The people of St. Matthews responded to the governor's leadership by lighting up their businesses and homes in compassionate support each time

a Kentuckian lost the fight to COVID-19.

If it's true what Wendell Berry says, that the world is no better than its places, and its places are no better than the people in them, then there could be no better place than St. Matthews.





### **Season's Greetings**

#### The Chamber of St. Matthews

The Chamber of St. Matthews is closed, but its staff continues to conduct the Chamber's business from their homes. Recently, The Chamber has had a number of businesses participate in virtual networking opportunities. To check out these opportunities, go to www.stmatthewschamber. com.

Last month, The Chamber welcomed 25 new members, 7 of them during the first two weeks of the pandemic and the shutdown of most busi-

nesses. Anyone interested in joining The Chamber, can reach out to Josh Suiter at (502) 899-2523 or via email at JoshS@stmatthewschamber. com.

The Chamber has also created some great resources including in-home learning plans for children; a page for musicians and artists highlighting concerts and funding; and a restaurant and retail page featuring service options for carryout, curbside, and inperson or mail delivery, to

name only a few. Information can be found at https://www.stmatthewschamber.com/covid-19-total-resourceguide/. Anyone wanting to add to this list should email Chamber@stmatthewschamber.com.

The Chamber continues to plan future community events and looks forward to offering those when social distancing ends. If you have a need, please contact The Chamber at 502-899-2523.

### **Alexander Hamilton Historical Society of Kentucky**

The Alexander Hamilton
Historical Society meetings,
normally held the third
Saturday of the month, have

been canceled until further notice due to the COVID-19 emergency. Meetings will resume when the crisis has ended and a notice will be posted on their website at https://ahhsky.wixsite.com/ahhs-ky.

### **Computer Tune Up and Repair Group**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Computer Tune Up and Repair Group has been unable to meet at the St. Matthews Library.

It is likely that in this time of social distancing, residents have been using their computers more than usual.
Residents are asked to wash

their hands before using their keyboards after being away from home. Following are two websites that provide tips about cleaning keyboards: https://www.cnet.com/how-to/how-to-clean-and-disinfect-your-keyboard-and-mouse/ and https://www.pcworld.com/ article/249212/how-to-



clean-your-key board.html.
The Tune Up and Repair Group
will see you again when the
library reopens.

#### Woman's Club of St. Matthews



During this difficult time, the Woman's Club of St. Matthews is not having regular, inperson meetings. However,

several members are hard at work making masks and taking care of the needs of their family and neighbors. We hope that all stay safe and well until we meet again.

### St. Matthews-Eline Library: Check it out!



#### **Isolated Readers**

The Library would like to direct readers who are in isolation to the digital content in the catalog at LFPL.org, which they can access from the comfort of their own home. Services currently available from the Library include:

- Reference services over the phone Monday to Friday from 9 a.m.–5 p.m. at 502-574-1611.
- Downloadable magazines, graphic novels, audiobooks, and Kanopy eBooks.
- Free streaming service from Lynda.com, an online learning

platform that offers classes in business, technology, creative skills, and languages.

If you do not have a library card, you can sign up virtually at www.lfpl.org/get-card.htm.



## Materials Currently Checked Out

The Library understands the community may have concerns about materials they currently have checked out. Please note:

- Restrictions due to overdue fines and replacement fees have been lifted.
- Recently expired and soon-tobe expired library cards are extended until June 1.
- All holds have been extended to 21 days so that your current holds will be here when we reopen.

#### **Code Words**

The City continues to receive reports regarding the obstruction of public sidewalks. For many, due to the stay-at-home order during the COVID-19 pandemic, the ability to walk and run in the neighborhood has become a vital outlet for emotional, mental, and physical well-being.

Chapter 92.03 of the St. Matthews Code of Ordinances states,

"No person, firm, or corporation shall be permitted to obstruct any sidewalk, alley or public way in any manner to prevent the free use thereof by pedestrians using sidewalks, or vehicles using the alley or public way." The City appreciates that most of its residents abide by this rule, but complaints of vehicles blocking sidewalks persist.

Keeping sidewalks clear also helps residents maintain a healthy distance of 6 feet from one another. Respiratory droplets from sneezing or coughing spread COVID-19 and these droplets typically travel 6 feet. So be diligent to keep the sidewalks clear. These days, you might just save a life.

### **Hot Off the Press**

#### **Grilling Safety**

Americans enjoy more than 3 billion barbecues every year. It doesn't occur to most of them that barbecuing can be dangerous, even deadly, if you aren't careful. To keep your grilling from getting too fiery follow these rules: Before you fire it up, protect yourself with a heavy apron and an oven mitt that extends almost to your armpits. For gas grills, it's crucial to store the gas

cylinder outside and as far away from your house as possible. Make sure to close the valves tightly when you aren't using them. Check regularly for leaks in the connections with a soap andwater mixture; bubbles will show where gas is escaping. Barbecue grills should be kept on a level surface away from house, garage, landscaping and, most of all, children. For charcoal grills, only use starter fluids designed for

grills. Never use gasoline. And go easy on the starter fluid. If necessary, rekindle with dry kindling and add more charcoal. Never add more liquid fuel; you could end up with a flash fire. Be sure to soak hot coals in water before you put them in the trash. Always remember that grills remain hot long after you are through barbecuing.

#### Your Works at Work

Editor's Note: While St. Matthews residents are Sheltering in Place in their homes, the City's Public Works Director Kenan Stratman, Supervisor Terry Ridgeway, and all the Works employees continue to serve out in the public, handling objects touched or discarded by the general public to insure that city residents and visitors have the high level quality of life expected in St. Matthews. Two crews work on alternating weeks, trying to accomplish twice the amount of work, all the while facing the danger of contracting COVID-19 and taking it home to their families. Each of these men is a Hometown Hero.

Following is the list of the department's most recent accomplishments:

#### **Completed Projects**

- Snow and Ice Removal. In an effort to be fiscally responsible, the City only salted the intersections of St. Matthews streets. All major roads— Shelbyville, Westport, Hubbards, Browns, Bowling, and Breckenridge—are the responsibility of Metro and the State.
- Planted several new trees and removed stumps from the right of way.
- Cleared several large trees blown over during storms from the right of way.
- Replaced street signs in the Warwick area.

#### **Current Projects**

- Cleaning up the landscaped areas, and re-mulching and planting trees in the parks.
- Improvements to audiovisual and Council desk in the

City Council Room.

• Replacing street signs in the Camelot subdivision.

#### **Future Projects**

- Working with MSD to finalize plans on drainage project between Kentucky and Washburn; construction anticipated in the summer of 2020.
- Drainage improvement projects on Massie, Winchester, and St. Germaine; construction scheduled between June and September.
- Drainage and Roadway improvements along Sears Avenue.
- Improvements to the St. Matthews Community Center building.
- Stream improvements in Draut Park.

### SeniorCare Experts Extraordinary Volunteers!

SeniorCare Experts (SCE) has the most wonderful, dedicated volunteers, not just during the COVID-19 crisis, but people. During the challenges all year long. Client Services Liaison Becky Ricketts said,



SeniorCare Experts meal bags awaiting delivery to seniors.

"They are an awesome group of dedicated individuals and some of the most amazing of COVID-19, SeniorCare Experts has continued its weekday meal delivery. We owe this all to our wonderful volunteers."

If you want to volunteer with SCE, call 502-896-2316. After the COVID-19 crisis has ended, they will also have front desk receptionist opportunities.

Part of SCE's mission is to keep seniors safe at home. Especially during this time, SCE would like to emphasize the importance of wearing a medical alert device. SME is partnering with Guardian Medical Monitoring, which offers medical alert devices for \$40 a month. SCE will walk you through the brief steps to obtain and operate the monitor. Call 502-896-2316.

### St. Baldrick's Superhero

At the last City Council meeting before social distancing was instituted, St. Matthews Mayor Rick Tonini recognized Our Lady of Lourdes fourth grader Miles Heilman for his service to the community. Miles may not own a cape, but his years of diligence in bringing hope to children with cancer have made him a superhero to many.

Miles began raising funds for St. Baldrick's Foundation, which conducts research for childhood cancer, when he was in kindergarten. Since that time he has raised an accumulated total of \$10,601. For

his years of involvement, St. Baldrick's has bestowed upon Miles the Squires of Hope designation.

Part of the challenge of raising funds for St. Baldrick's is that the fundraiser will shave his head upon reaching his goal. This year, Miles' mother, Amy, promised that if he raised \$5,000, she would also shave her head. From the beautiful picture at right, it is evident that both she and Miles kept their promises.

But then that's exactly what superheros do.



Miles and Amy Heilman talk about St. Baldrick's Foundation.

### St. MAM's Meets Needs during COVID-19 Crisis

#### **Food Pantry**

Though St. Matthews Area of Ministry cannot currently allow anyone to come into its building, the food pantry is open by appointment to individuals living in the 40207 and a portion of the 40220 ZIP codes. Here's how it works: Call St. MAM at 502-893-0205 to schedule a curbside pickup during on Tuesdays from 1:00–5:00 p.m. and Thursdays

from 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. At your scheduled time, pull up to the curb. Staff and volunteers will load the food into your car and have you sign paperwork.

## **Emergency Financial Assistance & Diapers**

These services will remain by appointment only. To make an appointment, call 502-893-5074 between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

on either Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday.

Diapers will be brought out to the clients' car at their scheduled appointment time. Every attempt will be made to give financial assistance through email and phone. In the event this is not possible, other options may be used at the discretion of the Director of Family Services.

### Hometown History - 2020

#### **THEN**

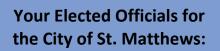
The photo from page 2 was taken circa 1938 and shows the J.J. Butler Building on Shelbyville Road. Early on, the building housed the St. Matthews Gas and Electric Shop and Butler Plumbing and Heating, among other businesses.

#### **NOW**

Today, the familiar building is home to Spinelli's Pizza and Yono Photography.



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**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** 

