

memo . . .

— from St. Matthews City Hall —

Mayor

Arthur Draut

Council Members

Bernard Bowling Jr.

R. O. Dorsey

Millard French

Harry Hargadon

Robert Hart

William O'Connell

Martha Schade

Richard Tonini

From the Mayor

St. Matthews rejects MSD drainage plan looks forward to successful year in '87-'88

Residents of the city of St. Matthews can anticipate a year of improved services and less taxes when the next fiscal year begins July 1.

First, the St. Matthews City Council voted not to join a plan offered by the Metropolitan Sewer District to take over responsibilities of the city's drainage needs.

(The plan *does not* apply to sanitary sewers, which are MSD's jurisdiction.)

By declining to participate in MSD's program, your council has saved you, St. Matthews property owners, from paying a monthly charge of \$1.75 for every 2,500 square feet of property.

While the cost would not have been excessive for residences, the fees charged businesses, schools, hospitals and churches would have been substantial.

Instead of joining with MSD, we decided to set aside funds, available because of the occupational tax instituted last July, to hire an engineering firm to evaluate our drainage situation and to make improvements.

We currently are in the process of interviewing engineering firms capable of handling our drainage improvement needs.

Funds will be set aside each budget year to cover the cost of some drainage improvements, and the work will be done on a priority system based on need.

By the way, check your water bill to be sure you are not paying the \$1.75 per 2,500 square foot bi-monthly bill.

Because other Jefferson County cities have joined MSD's drainage plan, some St. Matthews properties inadvertently have been added to the billing list.

More savings are in line for St. Matthews taxpayers if the finalized budget for 1987-88 goes through as planned.

At press time for this newsletter, we, the mayor and city council, were in the midst of the budget process, formalizing plans for the fiscal year that starts July 1.

We hope to save you more money in the coming year by eliminating the \$32 garbage fee and by increasing the discount for early payment of tax bills (in June) from 10 to 15 percent.

Based on a home valued at \$50,000, the annual savings to taxpayers will be about \$50 per year.

Not only has the \$1 million-plus in added revenue from the occupational tax allowed us to reduce the tax burden for our citizens, but it also has allowed us to improve services.

For instance, we are embarking on a sidewalk improvement project this next year. Details of our sidewalk plans are described in another article in this newsletter.

Your city officials are glad to be able to *lower* your tax obligation this year. Please let us know of other ways we may better serve you.

— A. K. Draut, Mayor

St. Matthews — The Difference is Style

Have you heard the jingle or seen the billboards touting our community's new slogan?

"St. Matthews — The Difference Is Style."

Early in May, a promotional campaign created by Baach Creative Services debuted.

The thrust of the campaign is to promote the St. Matthews area as a desirable place to shop, to work and to live.

Amy Baach of Baach Creative Services has coordinated the promotion with leaders of the St. Matthews/East Jefferson County Business Association and St. Matthews city officials.

The city of St. Matthews is funding the \$50,000 campaign with revenue from the occupational tax, which started last July.

Mayor Arthur Draut approached the busi-

ness association several months ago to obtain input on how some of the occupational tax funds could be used to benefit the area's businesses, whose employees pay the tax.

Business association members suggested the promotional campaign, and a joint committee of St. Matthews council members and business leaders has worked with Ms. Baach on the project.

The radio jingle, brochure and billboards just may be the start of even more promotion of our community.

Area business owners have been encouraged to incorporate the slogan and the jingle in their print and radio advertising to increase the impact of the campaign.

Police efforts improved with computer network

The St. Matthews Police Department is one of 50 law enforcement agencies in Kentucky to receive a computer system designed to automate crime arrest and administration records.

The new computer, placed in the department recently, is tied into the central system located in the Kentucky State Police Records Section in Frankfort.

The system allows St. Matthews to participate in Kentucky's Integrated Criminal Apprehension Program (KylCAP).

Federal funds to purchase the necessary computer equipment were awarded by the Kentucky Justice Department to the Kentucky State Police for the initiation of KylCAP.

ICAP agencies were selected on the basis of Uniform Crime Reporting system to the FBI. None of the agencies had the available software necessary to comply with new UCR guidelines.

With the computer, participating law enforcement agencies will be able to analyze serious crimes and arrest patterns; computerize criminal investigation files; project crime trends locally and statewide; improve investigative methods and deployment of personal establishing priorities, and save wasted man hours now being expended to keep up with administrative and intelligence files.

Chief Wilbur Bilyeu of the St. Matthews Police Department is

enthused about the new computer system.

"It's like going from a conventional oven to microway cooking," Bilyeu remarked. "Once we learn how to use the computer and get enough data entered into the system, we will be able to get an accurate picture of our crimes and arrest without having to dig through piles of cases and citations."

Because the software in the computer system is standard throughout the 50 law enforcement agencies participating in the ICAP program, the individual departments will be able to work together at local, regional and statewide levels in applying those strategies designed to offset and impact specific crimes, which are most persistent and troublesome.

Once the system is operating in all 50 locales, the computer in Frankfort will automatically poll each of the computers in the 5 jurisdictions to gather crime and arrest data, according to St. Matthews Police records officials.

Some more sensitive data in the individual computer system only will be accessible to authorized personnel within each agency, the State Police officials added.

The new computer network is expected to be fully operational and able to show its effectiveness within six months according to police officials.

St. Matthews plans to improve sidewalks

Walking is good exercise. And more people are walking these days. To make that exercise safer, St. Matthews officials are planning to have more and better sidewalks.

Residents are encouraged to offer their input and observations regarding the sidewalk improvement project, which has been made possible by income from the city's occupational tax that started last July.

Here are some guidelines to follow to offer suggestions:

Residents who have sidewalks in front of their homes in

need of replacement or repair should send to city hall a letter explaining the situation along with their name, address and telephone number.

City officials will send a representative to see what work needs to be done.

To request the installation of new sidewalks, residents should collect signatures of at least 50 percent of the citizens who live on the street, indicating that they want sidewalks.

The sidewalk project applies to any residential area in St. Matthews, city officials noted.

Eline Library buys books with funds from city

As a longtime supporter of the Sidney Eline Memorial Library, the St. Matthews City Council earlier this year appropriated \$5,500 to the library for the purchase of new reference materials.

Although all of the funds have not been used as yet, Eline's head librarian, Irene Underwood, said that several volumes are on order.

Soon to arrive on the shelves, thanks to St. Matthews' donation, are: a new set of Encyclopaedia Britannica, Americana Encyclopedia, Dictionary of Scientific Biography, Who's Who in America, Encyclopedia of the American Constitution and a five-

volume set of "The College Blue Book."

Ms. Underwood explained that "The College Blue Book" is the most comprehensive reference tool available to provide information on the selection of colleges. The Eline Library had not had this guide previously, she added.

The books have been on order for quite some time and are expected to arrive at the library any day, Ms. Underwood noted. "Oh, what a help it's been," Ms. Underwood said enthusiastically about St. Matthews' financial support.

Alton Road area to be linked to sanitary sewers

Installation of larger sanitary sewer connectors at nearby apartment developments has made it economically feasible to link residences in the Alton Road area to the sanitary sewer system.

The area, including Alton Road, Monohan Drive and

Norbourne Boulevard, is one of the few places left in St. Matthews without sanitary sewer service.

Property owners who will be connected to the sewer system will be charged a one-time fee of \$3,300, which may be paid over varied time periods.

St. Matthews City Council meetings are held the second and fourth Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at St. Matthews City Hall, 201 Thierman Lane. Citizens are welcome to attend.

NEWS BRIEFS

Beargrass/St. Matthews Historical Society

St. Matthews and east Jefferson County can pay tribute to and recognize the history and traditions of this community by participating in the year-old Beargrass/St. Matthews Historical Society.

The group meets the third Sunday of every month at 2 p.m., usually at St. Matthews City Hall unless there is a special program at an historical site.

There are now more than 200 members of the historical society, according to its president, Lynn Olympia. Membership costs are \$5 for an individual and \$10 per family.

For more information about this organization, call Donna Schicker at 897-5214.

Indian Summer in St. Matthews

The St. Matthews/East Jefferson County Business Association can be quite proud of its annual Indian Summer in St. Matthews event, which has brought much favorable attention to our community.

This year the event will be held Sept. 24-27, according to Indian Summer committee chairman Brad Breeland.

Mark your calendar now to take part in the festivities!

St. Matthews Fire Protection District

"A rose by any other name would smell as sweet," William Shakespeare wrote. And in line with that philosophy, the St. Matthews Fire Protection District decided last fall to return to its name with community connections.

As a means of reflecting the wider community of small cities it serves, the fire district adopted the name "Jefferson County Fire Protection District 26."

But that change proved to be confusing, explained Chief Franklin Florence, and the fire district trustees chose to restore the name "with more community identity." So once again it is the St. Matthews Fire Protection District.

Also, the fire district changed its address from Lyndon Way to 240 Sears Ave. so that the fire station's location would be more readily recognized.

The fire district, which is a separate entity from the city of St. Matthews, has its regular trustees meetings on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the fire station.

Light the way for your neighbors

Now that warmer weather has returned and more St. Matthews residents are walking along the streets and sidewalks, make an investment in your personal security and your neighbors' safety. Please turn on your yard or porch lights.

Not only will the added light be helpful to people walking, but, as police note, lights can deter crime.

Be mindful of leash law

St. Matthews officials dropped a proposal to ban dogs from

the city's parks (Brown Park, Warwick Villa Park and the St. Matthews Community Center). But the city council decided to have signs posted at the parks reminding citizens of St. Matthews' leash law.

If city officials receive more complaints about dogs running loose in the parks, St. Matthews police will cite offenders.

Homestead Exemption applies to main residence

St. Matthews officials want to remind handicapped persons or persons who will turn 65 this year that they may apply for the Homestead Exemption. This year the allowed amount is \$17,100.

The exemption is available to eligible taxpayers for only one parcel of property. Also, a taxpayer must own the property or Jan. 1 for the exemption to be allowed that year.

When applying for the Homestead Exemption, please bring a birth certificate or Medicare card as proof of age.

Take pride in the appearance of your home and lawn

To follow the image of St. Matthews being promoted in the "St. Matthews — The Difference Is Style" campaign, city officials hope that residents take the message to heart.

While the majority of St. Matthews residents strive to keep their property in neat, orderly condition, a few citizens could make a better effort.

In addition, it is the responsibility of property owners to make sure that trees and shrubs do not obstruct the view of motorist or block signs.

Take a look at your place and decide if it suits the style of St. Matthews.

Building permits are needed

Don't forget to check with St. Matthews City Hall before you pick up your hammer or shovel to build any structure on your property.

You are required to get a building permit from the city prior to pursuing building projects.

The permits don't cost anything, but it's necessary for city officials to check your plans to be sure that right of ways are not blocked and that zoning laws are not violated.

Police watch houses for vacationers

When you make preparations for that long-awaited vacation don't forget to take precautions to protect your home while you are away.

In addition to the routine steps, such as stopping delivery of your newspaper and having a neighbor collect your mail, St. Matthews residents can request police patrols.

Call St. Matthews Police at 893-9000 to ask for the vacation house watch service.

DIRECTORY

Keep these numbers for quick reference
should you have any questions about city
services:

Public Works and Sanitation

George Clephas — 895-9444

Property Taxes

Mary Whitler — 895-9444

Business License

Doreen Stopher — 895-9444

Zoning Information

Marion Comstock — 895-9444

Sign Regulations

Sterling Weyrich — 895-9444

Police (non-emergencies)

Chief Wilbur Bilyeu — 893-9000

Police Emergencies — 911

General Information

Gretchen Kaiser, — 895-9444
city clerk

Mayor Art Draut
895-9444 or 893-2751

FEEDBACK WELCOMED

We invite you to let us know what you think about this news-
letter. We also would welcome your questions and suggestions
regarding articles you would like to see in this publication.

Mail your letters to:

St. Matthews Memo
201 Thierman Lane
St. Matthews, Ky. 40207

City of St. Matthews
201 Thierman Lane
St. Matthews, Ky. 40207

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