



### Behind the Scenes: How IT Keeps St. Matthews Running

While most city residents interact with the City of St. Matthews through its parks, public services, or City Hall visits, few realize the complex technological infrastructure working around the clock to keep everything functioning. Shawn Weatherholt, the city's IT director, and city employees, have spent the past three years transforming St. Matthews' digital infrastructure from outdated systems into a secure, modern operation.

When Shawn arrived three years ago, he found technology that had been in place since 2018. "One of the first things we had to do is basically upgrade all of our server infrastructure," he explains. The systems were unsupported, storage was insufficient, and the City lacked adequate protection against ransomware attacks.

The average ransomware incident now costs between one and two million dollars, making robust cybersecurity essential. Working with the mayor and city council, Shawn developed a comprehensive solution. The timing was perfect—just weeks after he started, Dell informed the City that their server systems were no longer supported.

The entire virtual server was replaced, and a backup site was created at an undisclosed offsite location with near real-time data replication. Cloud-based storage monitors data changes and can automatically shut down processes if it detects widespread encryption, typical of ransomware attacks.

This means that if City Hall were destroyed by fire or tornado, operations



*Shawn Weatherholt, City of St. Matthews IT Director*

could continue from the offsite location with minimal disruption. The cloud backup provides another layer of protection, allowing the City to quickly restore critical systems.

The police department has seen particularly significant upgrades. Body-worn cameras have been implemented along with cloud-based technology that provides almost real-time access to footage. Each patrol car functions as a mobile network, equipped with cellular routers and new computers.

An advanced endpoint security platform has also been implemented that goes far beyond traditional antivirus software. This system can identify threats, contain them, and provide detailed information about how malware entered the system and what it affected. It also scans the network for vulnerabilities in everything from operating systems to everyday

applications like Google Chrome or Adobe Reader.

For residents, some of the most visible improvements have been the expanded camera systems in city parks and other city facilities. All feeds flow into police dispatch, where officers monitor four large panels. The system can send automatic alerts when motion is detected in sensitive areas, allowing quick response to potential vandalism.

Perhaps the most practical change for residents has been the ability to pay property taxes and business licenses online. When the mayor expressed interest in offering online payment options, Shawn worked with city staff to implement the system securely using modern payment gateways that employ tokenization, meaning no credit card information is stored in City systems.

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# A Message From...

## Annual City Audit Completed

The accounting firm of Dean Dorton, one of the largest certified public accounting and professional business advisory firms in the Southeast, presented the completed audit for fiscal year 2024–2025 to the city at the December 9 council meeting. The firm's findings were positive. The City of St. Matthews continues to maintain the strong financial position it has sustained for decades. The detailed 2023–2024 audit is accessible on the city website under the Government tab.

## We Want To Communicate With You!

Stay informed about St. Matthews, especially during winter and spring weather events.

**Reach Alert** is our primary emergency notification system for urgent situations like road closures, severe weather, or public safety concerns. The St. Matthews Police Department also uses this system to communicate during emergencies. We only send alerts as needed.

Our **Facebook** page posts important updates. This is a push-out page only—we share information but do not allow comments.



[reachalert.com](https://reachalert.com)

Please visit the city's website home page to check for important notices. Sign up today at [reachalert.com](https://reachalert.com) or call (877) 307-9313.

## Hometown History—Raymond Joseph Kempf

*When my daughter Joan asked me to write something about my being born and living in St. Matthews for 86 plus years, I decided I should write that it was no picnic growing up poor, but, boy was it fun! People today accuse me of being filthy rich, coming from, and living in, St. Matthews. Perhaps these writings will show that there were hardworking people who lived in this community long before it was one of the "in" places to live.*

We had gooseberries, grapes, apples, peaches, cherry and plum trees, plus chickens, cows, hogs, and at one time, a horse. Us boys tried to get a goat, but we were voted down. When we got older, we would take matches and toilet paper from the house and go to the grape arbor (August, September), get dried grape leaves, roll them in toilet paper and smoke. It wasn't very good! In the early 1920's, all oranges came wrapped in paper. We were requested to use the wrappers instead of purchased toilet paper.

As we got older, we were assigned duties on the farm. My older brother, Carl, milked (I never milked much). Carl had the job of getting kindling wood in every night for fire starting the next morning. I was always glad that I wasn't the oldest. We didn't get natural gas until 1941. We chopped wood, cut longs (no

chain saws) all summer in order to have a good supply in the winter. In summer, we used a coal oil stove. It was my job to keep the coal oil tank full.

We worked the garden as soon as we were able to use a hoe. I think dad should have been a psychologist, because he brought each of us a hoe and made us proud to own and use it. Of course, one brother outwitted dad. He broke the handle.

We were assigned various tasks (farm work), but there was also a baseball field nearby (Holy Trinity). Our friends would come by and we might do a halfway job, but believe me, dad always caught on real quick. He decreed, "Get your work done, then play ball," and we did.

There was a large pond over near Chenoweth Lane where we ice skated in the winter (where Kennison Avenue is now). One Saturday, Carl fell in the ice; he got cold but was unhurt. Since it was Saturday, he didn't have to take his weekly bath. The rest of us boys were envious of him.

In my younger years, there was no such thing as garbage collection. We fed the pigs all of the table scraps plus dishwater, buried the glass and tin, and burned the paper. The dishes were washed with Grandma's homemade lye soap – no suds whatsoever.

One project that happened every summer was blackberry picking... under six years old stayed home with Grandma. Of course, mother and grandma had to take care of the berries, make jelly, can them whole and save some for wine. Dad sure did make good wine. ...I remember the wine was stored in barrels in the cellar part of the basement. One day, we (us boys) decided to try some wine, so I was elected to open the wooden spigot. Well, it stuck open and a lot of the wine spilled onto the dirt floor. Needless to say, I was scared. However, dad never noticed or chose not to fuss at me.

When we became older we were sent (walking) to the Arterburn's (now Beechwood Village) to pick blackberries...with instructions to fill a 3-gallon bucket, ...then we could take a swim in the pond, which was near the railroad tracks. One day, a train had stopped near where we were, and we were offered a ride home in the caboose. Boy, we were in heaven. The conductor stopped the train at St. Matthews Avenue and let us off. Fond memories.

*From his memoir book, "A Walk With Ray" written circa 2003.*

## The Alexander Hamilton Historical Society of Kentucky

The Alexander Hamilton Historical Society of Kentucky meets every third Saturday of the month at 10:30 a.m. The meetings are held in the Artisan Room in the Meadow Building of the Masonic Homes Kentucky, 3701 Frankfort Avenue. Please use common sense concerning precautions to stay healthy. As always, AHHS meetings are open to the public.

Please use email address [lauvepoche@att.net](mailto:lauvepoche@att.net) to request information about AHHS.

Follow AHHS at <http://ahhsky.wixsite.com-ky>

### Our schedule of upcoming speakers:

#### February 21, 2026

Constitutional Symposium at Bellarmine University  
Speakers:

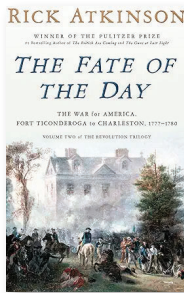
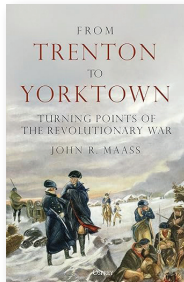
Jonas Hammond, Bellarmine University  
Ethan Ballard, Bellarmine University

#### March 21, 2026

Dr. William Nash presents: *From Trenton to Yorktown: Turning Points of the Revolutionary War*  
by John R. Maass

#### April 18, 2026

Richard Werking presents *The Fate of the Day*  
by Rick Atkinson



## Thank You from St. Matthews Area Ministries

As St. MAM kicks off 2026 and celebrates our 54th anniversary, we want to thank our incredible supporters and the City of St. Matthews. Your partnership has been especially meaningful this winter as many in our community faced challenges related to SNAP and the government shutdown. Your generosity helps us continue meeting essential needs with care and dignity.

We're excited to launch a new Community Partnership Program to connect local businesses and organizations with St. MAM's mission. Join our annual **Souper Bowl of Caring Drive**, running January 26 through February 9, and our new **March Madness Bracket Challenge**!

For more information,  
please visit: [stmam.com](http://stmam.com) or  
call: 502-893-0205



The Woman's Club of St. Matthews (WCSM) serves St. Matthews and Jefferson County through scholarships, volunteer work with Supplies Overseas (SOS), St. Matthews Area Ministries (St. MAM), and charitable donations. Members enjoy guest speakers, field trips, social events, and interest groups including bridge, mahjong, and book clubs. Meetings are held the second and fourth Monday of each month at St. Matthews City Hall. Visit our website: <https://wscsm.org/>



Reminder: All of our City Parks are equipped with pet waste disposal stations. Please clean up after your pets.



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

FEBRUARY 2026						
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

MARCH 2026						
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 2026						
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		

## Safety Update from your St. Matthews Police Department

As February continues, our community experiences winter weather, early spring activity, and seasonal crime trends. The St. Matthews Police Department encourages residents to stay alert, prepared, and proactive to help keep everyone safe.

### Winter Weather Safety

February often brings snow, ice, and freezing temperatures. Drive slowly, allow extra stopping distance, and keep headlights on during winter precipitation. Ensure vehicles are winter-ready with proper tire pressure and emergency supplies. Treat sidewalks and walkways to prevent slip-and-fall injuries, and report downed power lines or tree limbs immediately.

### Vehicle Theft Prevention

Cold mornings often lead drivers to leave vehicles running unattended, which is a leading cause of theft. Never warm up a vehicle unless you are inside the vehicle, always lock doors, remove valuables from sight, park in well-lit areas, and report suspicious activity.

### Home & Property Security

Secure garages and sheds, even during short trips inside. Break down large packaging boxes, record serial numbers for valuables, use exterior lighting or motion sensors, and hold mail and packages when traveling.

### School Zone & Pedestrian Safety

Drivers should remain alert for children and pedestrians during low-visibility conditions. Pedestrians should wear reflective clothing, use crosswalks, and motorists should slow down in school zones when crossing guards or beacons are active.



### Domestic Safety & Community Support

February brings Valentine's Day, which can bring increased relationship-related incidents. Reach out for help early if a situation feels unsafe, use available community resources, and report concerns to police.

### Looking Ahead to Spring

Now is a good time to test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, review emergency plans, check first-aid supplies, and prepare outdoor equipment for spring.

The St. Matthews Police Department remains committed to a safe and informed community as we transition from winter into spring.

## Vitality Living St. Matthews Wins Prestigious Statewide Honor from KCARE

The senior living facility has been named a recipient of the 2025 Best of Kentucky – Assisted Living award by the Kentucky Coalition for Aging Resources and Empowerment (KCARE). The award recognizes communities that demonstrate exceptional resident care, operational excellence, and commitment to elevating the senior living experience. "Being recognized as one of the Best in Kentucky is an incredible honor and a testament to the heart of our team," said Mark Witt, executive director of Vitality Living St. Matthews. "Every day, our residents trust us with their lives, their stories, and their families. This award reflects our commitment to showing up with purpose, compassion, and excellence."



Vitality Living St. Matthews offers assisted living care in a warm, vibrant environment where residents can be themselves, live purposefully, and feel deeply connected. The staff is dedicated to providing individualized support and meaningful engagement. KCARE, Kentucky's largest long-term care trade association, represents more than 400 providers across the senior care continuum and advocates for quality care throughout the Commonwealth. Vitality Living is one more example of why St. Matthews is a great place to live and work!

## Auto Break-Ins & Fraud: Stay Alert

### Theft from Autos

The St. Matthews Police Department is seeing a steady increase in thefts from both locked and unlocked vehicles throughout the community. While many incidents continue to involve unlocked cars, recent reports show that suspects are also targeting locked vehicles, often breaking windows to access valuables left inside.

Officers remind residents that the most effective prevention step is removing items from vehicles—especially bags, electronics, firearms, and spare keys. Thieves frequently look for easy opportunities, and visible property significantly increases the likelihood of a break-in, regardless of whether the vehicle is locked.

The department urges everyone to lock vehicles every time, park in well-lit areas, and report suspicious persons or activity to SMPD at 893-9000 immediately. Increased vigilance and timely reporting can help officers identify suspects and reduce crime across the area.

The St. Matthews Police Department remains committed to partnering with the community to curb these thefts and encourage safer habits.

### Scam & Fraud Awareness

Tax season often brings an increase in phone, email, and online scams. Residents should remain cautious of:

- Calls claiming to be from the IRS that demand immediate payment.
- Unsolicited requests for personal or financial information.
- Fake job, rental, or online marketplace postings that require upfront payment.



- When in doubt, hang up, verify the request through official sources, and never send money or gift cards to unknown individuals.

To visit the St. Matthews Police Department website, scan the QR code, right, or visit:  
<https://www.stmatthewsky.gov/police/>



A graphic of a house with a QR code inside it, used for the Free House Watch promotion.

**FREE House Watch  
while you are away**  
Visit our City website  
to sign up for a  
house watch while  
you are away  
from home.  
[www.frontlinepss.com/stmatthews](http://www.frontlinepss.com/stmatthews)

## Shop Small Every Day: Strengthening Communities One Purchase at a Time

While many people support small businesses during seasonal events like Small Business Saturday, the real impact happens when we choose to shop small every day. Local businesses are the heartbeat of our communities—creating jobs, adding character, and reinvesting in the place we call home.

The economic benefits are significant. A greater share of each dollar spent at a small business stays within the community—supporting employees, funding local sponsorships, and fueling other neighborhood businesses. This cycle of reinvestment creates stronger, more resilient local economies.

Choosing to shop small doesn't require major changes. Pick up a gift from a local shop, grab lunch from a family-owned restaurant, or hire a local contractor. When you shop small, you're not just making a purchase—you're making an impact locally and helping preserve the unique character of our community.



# St. Matthews Team Highlights

## Corey Stein, Police Dispatch



Corey Stein has served as a police dispatcher for the City of St. Matthews since October, bringing a decade of experience to the role. Corey was

previously with Louisville Metro and Oldham County. Corey completed his initial training at Metro's Academy ten years ago, where his current supervisor, Josh Neely, first trained him.

Corey's responsibilities include processing emergency and non-emergency calls, coordinating police response, and managing SMPD Reach Alerts that notify residents of urgent situations. Call volume varies significantly based on weather conditions and daily circumstances, ranging from auto accidents to suspicious activity reports.

"Helping people" drives Corey's work. "They're calling us because they're usually in a situation they can't quite grasp," he explains. A University of Louisville journalism graduate, Corey lives in southern Indiana with his wife and three-year-old son, balancing his public safety career with family life.

## Ray Wheeler, Public Works



Ray Wheeler has dedicated 27 years to St. Matthews Public Works, and he's considering retirement this March. For the past five years,

Ray has maintained City Hall and the Police Department, handling everything from office upkeep to bathroom maintenance. Before that, he worked outdoors cutting grass, filling potholes, and maintaining parks.

"The city's been very good to me," Ray says. "I've been blessed to work here—it's home to me."

Ray's favorite part of the job? The people. He keeps dog treats in his truck for the pets he meets at city parks, and he's recently started pet sitting on the side for friends.

"It started as favors for friends, but now my phone's blowing up," he laughs.

In his free time, Ray enjoys hiking, working on cars and car shows, and traveling to visit his seven siblings, and his nieces and nephews.

## Troy Armstrong, Police



After 13 years of full-time service with the St. Matthews Police Department, Officer Troy Armstrong retired in July 2025.

However, his time away was brief. Armstrong returned to the department in a part-time capacity as a department resource officer, a role he previously held from 2014 to 2019.

Troy began his law enforcement career in Shepardsville, where he served for seven years before joining St. Matthews in May 2012. His current responsibilities include assisting with the property room, updating department policies, writing grants for equipment, and serving as a liaison between the community and the department, including the National Night Out event held in the summer.

"The city treats us very well," Troy explained. "I really like the people of St. Matthews. It's kind of hard to leave a place that treats you so well."

Troy and his wife Monica, a retired schoolteacher, have two adult sons living in Nashville and Columbus.

## Behind the Scenes: How IT Keeps St. Matthews Running

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The team implemented Starlink satellite service as a backup internet connection. If the primary connection fails, phone calls can be automatically forwarded to cell phones in dispatch, ensuring continuity of emergency services.

Shawn is developing documentation and policies for state compliance audits, including formal policies for passwords, acceptable use, and incident response. The City recently completed its first external audit, identifying areas needing alignment with state standards.

After decades of complex password requirements, cybersecurity experts now see this approach as problematic—people forget passwords, write them down, or reuse them. The City is shifting toward longer passphrases and eventually passwordless authentication using hardware keys or software tokens.

As a department of one, Shawn contracts out tasks like camera installation and cable running, focusing his efforts on design, implementation, and maintenance of critical systems.

Most residents will never see the server rooms or disaster recovery systems that protect their data and keep city services running. But whether they're paying a bill online, walking through a park monitored for their safety, or benefiting from police equipped with modern technology, they're experiencing the results of careful planning and tireless work to bring a small city's IT capabilities into 2026 and beyond.

## St. Matthews Fire & EMS to Transition to 24/72 Schedule on February 14, 2026

St. Matthews Fire & EMS is preparing for an important milestone as our fire personnel transition to a 24/72 schedule beginning February 14, 2026. This change represents a major step forward for our organization—one that supports employee wellness, strengthens operational readiness, and aligns us with evolving best practices in the fire service.

### From 24/48 to 24/72: Why the Change Matters

For decades, many fire departments, including St. Matthews, have operated on a 24/48 schedule, which requires personnel to return to duty just two days after a 24-hour shift. While this model has been traditionally used throughout the industry, it has become the subject of increased national discussion.

In recent years, OSHA guidelines and national fire service research have emphasized the risks associated with chronic fatigue, reduced recovery time, and cumulative sleep deprivation—issues that become more significant under a 24/48 structure. These discussions have encouraged departments across the country to re-evaluate their shift models with a focus on firefighter health and safety.

Transitioning to a 24/72 schedule, which provides 72 hours of recovery time, has been shown through occupational health studies to reduce fatigue and support long-term wellness. St. Matthews Fire & EMS is proud to be among the first departments in Kentucky to make this shift, joining our neighbors at Jeffersontown Fire, who have already embraced this modern approach.

### The Move to a 24/72 Schedule Represents a Significant Investment in Our People

Our EMS Division transitioned to the 24/72 schedule in July 2025, and the benefits were immediate. Employees reported improved work-life balance, increased rest between shifts, and more sustainable long-term performance. This successful transition has served as a model and paved the way for our fire division's shift in 2026.

### Expanding Staffing to Support the New Model

Moving to a four-crew rotation required a strategic staffing expansion across all four St. Matthews stations. To meet this need, we launched a recruit class of 17 firefighter candidates in September 2025. These recruits have undergone extensive training and will graduate on February 12, 2026—just two days before the schedule transition.

Their addition completes the staffing necessary for four fully operational rotations, ensuring continuous, high-quality service to the community.



Above: Fire recruits line up for daily PT training.



Left: Major Mike Abell works with the recruits at the training burn facility.

### A Decade of Remarkable Growth

The upcoming schedule transition is only one example of how far our organization has come. In 2016, St. Matthews Fire & EMS employed 34 personnel. Today, we proudly stand at 115 employees—more than tripling our workforce in just ten years.

This growth reflects the tremendous expansion of our services, the increasing needs of our community, and our commitment to delivering exceptional fire and EMS protection. It also demonstrates the trust our residents and local partners place in our department.

We appreciate the ongoing support from our employees, leadership, board members, and community as we take this important step forward.

## How Complaints Are Processed:

If you've called the City of St. Matthews because your neighbor's yard seems more like Daniel Boone's wilderness, please be patient—the circumstances may require some time to resolve. With any violation, our first attempt is to talk with the occupant or owner of the property to explain the violation. Oftentimes, this is sufficient to get the situation corrected. If not, a formal written notice of violation is issued and timeframes begin for compliance, citations and possibly liens.

### Grounds

When a complaint is made regarding grass that is too high or rubbish piling up around a residence, the City sometimes finds the residence is occupied by an elderly person or a resident who has lost his job. In these situations, the City

tries to connect the residents with organizations that may assist them. In some cases, the residence is a rental property and neither the occupants nor the landlord keep it up. Following proper legal procedure, the City first gives notice to clean up or mow. Failure to comply will result in a citation and a further warning. In extreme cases, the City may cut the grass or clean up the rubbish and file a lien against the property to recover expenditures.

### Structures

The City of St. Matthews passed an ordinance regarding structural maintenance several years ago addressing specific conditions that may cause a building not to be in good repair. The structure must be reasonably tight from intrusion by water, weather, critters, etc., with the exterior surfaces properly protected, and where gutters are

present, they must be operable. We do not have any ordinance that addresses the interior of a structure.

### Vehicles

While an abandoned vehicle on the public right-of-way can be towed, such a vehicle on private property is not so easily removed. The City must take proper steps before it can remove an abandoned vehicle from private property. The most difficult situations are those where the owner has lost the property to a lending institution. Often the owner is nowhere to be found, and the institution does not take ownership. The City works diligently to see that action is taken on the vehicle for the good of the neighborhood.

Following proper legal steps to resolve complaints does take time. But rest assured, the City is at work finding a solution to the problem.

## Outstanding St. Matthews Neighbor Award

Do you have an outstanding neighbor who deserves to be recognized?

Do they go above and beyond in how they treat others and help better our community?

Please nominate them for the St. Matthews Outstanding Neighbor Award. Email your nomination to: [info@stmatthewsky.gov](mailto:info@stmatthewsky.gov). Email must include: name and address of the nominee, contact number if possible, and why they deserve the award.

All nominations will be reviewed by the City's Administration Committee. The monthly winner will be recognized with a yard sign showing they ARE An Outstanding Neighbor.

### Recent Outstanding Neighbor Recipients

October: Kevin Wadle, Massie

Nov.: Janet Zeller and Jay Jackson Brookfield

December: Gary and Stephanie Lee Washington Square



Kevin Wadle



Janet Zeller and Jay Jackson



Gary and Stephanie Lee



## Good Neighboring

**Report Potholes** – Call STM Public Works at (502) 899-2517 or use Contact Us on the city website. Provide the street name and nearest address.

**Out of Service Street Lights** – Call LG&E's outdoor lighting department at (502) 589-3500 or use the link on the city website. Provide the street name and nearest address.

**Portable Storage Containers** – A city permit is required before using a PSC (such as PODS). Property owners are responsible for obtaining permits. Visit the city website for information and applications.

**Pets** – Keep pets leashed when off of your property. Pick up after your pet and dispose of waste properly. Prevent excessive barking.

## St. Matthews Eline Library—Check It Out

### All Ages

#### Nintendo Day

**Saturday, February 7**

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Play Nintendo through the ages. NES, SNES, Wii, GameBoy, Switch and more!



### Adult Programs

#### Cafe LOUIE: St. Matthews

**Saturday, February 21**

9:00 am - 10:00 am

Café LOUIE is an informal gathering of civic minded individuals interested in meeting with their elected officials to discuss local issues. When you arrive, grab a cup of coffee and fill out a notecard with your specific question(s). A trained facilitator will direct your questions to officials for comment and discussion.



#### Friends of the Library Booksale

Friday, March 20

1:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Saturday, March 21

10:00 am – 4:30 pm

Sunday, March 22,

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Cash only; Exact change is appreciated.



#### Friends of the Library Meeting

**Tuesday, April 21**

10:00 am – 11:30 am

### Adults & Teens

#### D & D at the library!

**Thursday, February 12**

6:00 pm–7:30 pm

Learn the basics of Dungeons & Dragons and other tabletop role-playing games at the library. Ages 16+



### Teens

#### Level Up Your Organizational

**Skills – Part 2**

**Saturday, February 14**

2:00 pm–3:00 pm

Decorate and enhance a planner or calendar and make organization fun.

### Children & Families

#### Pint Size Play Date

**Saturdays**

February 7, March 7, and April 4

10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Pint-Size Playdate is a chance to meet new families and enjoy social playtime.

Coffee and toys provided! Ages 0-5



#### WAGS: Read with a Dog!

**February 28**

11:00 am–12:00 pm

Read to a licensed therapy dog from WAGS—Wonderful Animals Giving Service. All reading levels are welcome. Reading times are limited to 15 minutes per child/family. Space limited, registration required.

Call 502- 574 1771 to register.

#### Family Movie Nights:

**Sing 2**

**Thursday, February 26**

Room opens at 5:45 pm

Movie starts at 6:00 pm

Join us for Family Movie Night with a movie and a craft. This month, return to the stage for the greatest show on Earth in *Sing 2*! Fuzzy blankets and pajamas are encouraged.



#### Library Holiday Closures:

**Sunday, April 5, for Easter**



For a complete listing of programs and events, visit [www.lfpl.org](http://www.lfpl.org)

### Free Computer Tune-Up Service

A FREE computer tune-up and repair service is offered the first Saturday of each month from 1–4:30 p.m. at the St. Matthews Library's small conference room. Participants

must bring any additional devices that are needed such as a keyboard, monitor, and mouse for desktops. If participants are bringing a laptop, please bring your battery charger. If you would like to attend contact Rae Taylor at [taylor-rae@hotmail.com](mailto:taylor-rae@hotmail.com). We will be limiting the attendance to three people.



### Electronics Recycling Event Returns!

**March 19**

**12–3:00 p.m.**

The community-favorite Free Electronics Recycling Event, hosted by the St. Matthews

Chamber, is officially back at the Arterburn, 310 Ten Pin Lane, on Thursday, March 19, from noon to 3 p.m. Bring your old, outdated or damaged computers, iPads, cell phones, monitors or other electronic devices to this free event.





## Let's Play Pickleball!

Pickleball is a racket or paddle sport in which two or four players use a smooth-faced paddle to hit a perforated, hollow plastic ball over a 34-inch-high net until one side is unable to return the ball or commits a rule infraction. It was invented in 1965 as a children's backyard game in the United States.

Aspects of the sport resemble tennis and table tennis played on a doubles badminton court, but pickleball has specific scoring rules, paddles, balls and court lines. On each side of the net is a seven-foot area known as the non-volley zone (or kitchen); a player

standing there may not strike the ball before it has bounced. The hard plastic pickleball produces less bounce than a tennis ball. The limited bounce, non-volley zones and underhand stroke, with which all serves must be made, give the game a dynamic pace. (source: Wikipedia)

In 2025, the City of St. Matthews completed Phase I of park upgrades in Warwick Park, located in the eastern area of the City. Warwick Park is nestled behind the homes on Kentucky, Virginia and Washburn Avenues, and just across the street from the homes on Columbia Avenue. Phase I included the installation

of four pickleball courts, accessible from Columbia Avenue. These courts are open to the public seven days a week on a first-come basis. There is ample free parking abutting the court play area. We hope that you will plan a visit to Warwick Park soon to try out the new courts.

Please know that the City is currently implementing Phase 2 and Phase 3 park upgrades in the southern portion of the park; therefore, for the safety of the public, these areas will be closed during construction.

## Easy Being Green

### Free Trees for City Residents

The City of St. Matthews Public Works Department plants new trees in right-of-way areas throughout the City each year from February through April. These trees are native species best suited to our area and will require minimal maintenance.

To request a free tree to be planted in front of your property in the right-of-way area, use the Request a Tree form on the city website or contact St. Matthews Public Works at (502) 899-2517. Tree requests for the current year's planting should be made during February. Later requests will be filled based on availability.

### Mulching Around Trees

Tree care professionals prefer organic mulches, such as wood chips, pine needles, hardwood and softwood bark, cocoa hulls, leaves and compost mixes, since they decompose, improving soil structure and increasing soil fertility. The various organic mulches decompose at different rates and require periodic reapplication. Ideally, the mulched area around a tree should



extend to the drip line of the branches, or at least cover a four- to five-foot diameter area around the trunk, and the layer should be about two to three inches in depth. The larger the mulched area, the more beneficial. Check the mulch depth annually and replenish as necessary.

**Know What's Below. Call Before You Dig,  
24 Hours a Day, Seven Days a Week**

Telephone 811 / 502-266-5123 / 800-752-6007

Since the last newsletter, the following has been accomplished:

## Completed Projects

**Leaf Collection:** Public Works made multiple passes throughout St. Matthews, collecting leaves from the right of ways. We start leaf collection as late as we can while still finishing before Thanksgiving. It takes three weeks to make one pass through the City, utilizing three crews. However, a lot of leaves fell late this year. Rain and snow made it difficult to get the leaves up as fast as we historically have. Thanks to everyone for their patience and participation.

**Snow and Ice Removal:** The City of St. Matthews operates a comprehensive snow removal program. Mother Nature has not hit us hard the last few years; hopefully we will continue our good luck. On smaller snow events, in an effort to be fiscally responsible, the City will only salt the intersections. All major roads—Shelbyville Rd, Westport Rd, Hubbards Lane, Browns Lane, Bowling Blvd. and Breckenridge Lane—are the responsibility of Louisville Metro and the State of Kentucky.

- Patched potholes on many streets. Please continue to report these by calling 899-2517 or using the Contact Us tab on the city website.
- Repaired a catch basin on Exchange.
- Exterior improvements to The Arterburn.

## Current Projects

- Construction plans for Phase II and III of Warwick Park Improvements completed; project has been bid and construction expected to begin.
- Stream and basin improvements at Draut Park – phased construction that will last a year. Process has been slow starting due to working with Metropolitan Sewer District. Sections of the park will be closed once work begins.
- Electrical Charging Station to be placed near the library and Brown Park.
- Electric improvements in Brown Park.
- Alley improvements between Massie and Gilman.
- Phased street sign replacement project ongoing.
- Preparing a master plan for Community Park for addressing possible field and playground upgrades.



- Walkability study for the City to evaluate existing sidewalks, possible locations of new sidewalks, and to promote pedestrian traffic to area businesses, parks, and other destinations.

## Future Projects

- Annual street paving and milling.
- Installing street banners throughout the City.
- Exploring the feasibility of establishing a small amphitheater in Brown Park.

## The Arterburn: St. Matthews' Premier Event Space

Enjoy your St. Matthews resident discount and book your next corporate, group, or family event at The Arterburn. Located in St. Matthews Community Park, The Arterburn is a beautifully renovated community building offering versatile event spaces and amenities.

For information, pricing, or to schedule an onsite tour, contact St. Matthews City Hall or visit the website: <https://www.stmatthewsky.gov/arterburn/>



Take a Virtual Tour

**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.

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

Nate Hernandez

Tim Holland

Sarah Landes

Mary Jo Nay

Amy Olson

Jackie Vanetti

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](http://www.stmatthewsky.gov).

## Reach Alert

To receive emergency  
and/or community  
service notifications  
through St. Matthews  
FREE Reach Alert  
system, sign up at  
[www.reachalert.com](http://www.reachalert.com)  
or call 1-877-307-9313

## Be A Good Neighbor!

- Keep your pet on a leash  
at all times when off of  
your property
- Report perceived speeding
- Report out of service street  
lights

## Government Access

City Hall Office: (502) 895-9444

Code Enforcement: (502) 899-2512

Police Department: (502) 893-9000

City Engineer: (502) 899-2518

Public Works: (502) 899-2517

Property Taxes: (502) 899-2511

Police Records: (502) 899-2537

## Emergency: 911

Reminder: All of our city parks  
are equipped with pet waste  
disposal stations. Please clean up  
after your pets.

[www.stmatthewsky.gov](http://www.stmatthewsky.gov)