

WINTER 2020



## OLATHE AWARDED \$10 MILLION TRANSPORTATION GRANT FOR 119TH STREET INTERCHANGE PROJECT

The City of Olathe recently received a U.S. Department of Transportation \$10 million BUILD grant for an expanded and improved I-35 and 119th Street Interchange project. The project will bring significant improvements for safety, congestion, and travel times by constructing a diverging diamond interchange and more travel lanes on 119th Street and added turn lanes on the I-35 exit ramps. This area often has vehicles backing up onto I-35, especially during the peak morning and afternoon times.

Construction is expected to start in 2021. The City will use local revenue sources to pay for 41 percent of the \$25.4 million project, in addition to Olathe's previous \$3 million investment in 2016-2019 for planning and design activities. The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) and the BUILD grant will fund the remainder.

The City partnered with KDOT, U.S. Senators Jerry Moran and Pat Roberts, and U.S. Representative Sharice Davids to receive crucial federal funding for this project.

"We're incredibly grateful to our Congressional delegation, especially Senator Jerry Moran, for working on our behalf, and to KDOT for their support and partnership to fully fund this project," says Olathe Mayor Michael Copeland. "Traffic is our citizens' priority and this project will make a major difference for that area of Johnson County."

The City of Olathe and the Kansas Department of Transportation selected the diverging diamond interchange design as the most effective solution through extensive study, public engagement, and the design process.

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Visit [OlatheKS.org](https://www.OlatheKS.org) and Click on **NEWS** for additional Olathe news.

Olathe's transition to a vibrant, high-tech education and employment center has placed pressure on existing infrastructure and services like the I-35 & 119th Street Interchange.



## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

### OLATHE IS EVER BETTER INTO THE FUTURE

Olathe enjoyed continued blessings of success during 2019. This was affirmed by residents who experience daily life in our city, and also by national publications that regularly validate our community as one of the best places to live, work, and raise a family.

The past year we opened premier improvements at Lake Olathe with attractive new amenities for all ages. Residents can explore the beauty of Olathe on nearly six and half miles of trails added to our greenway system in 2019. Lone Elm Park gained a new concession building, restrooms, and other features.

The new Indian Creek Library opened with state-of-the-art library services and innovative, customized spaces for children, teens, and adults. This former HyVee building at 16100 W. 135th St. has exceeded expectations as a community resource and gathering place.

We continue to address residents' number one priority—managing traffic flow and congestion. Olathe is moving ahead on an improved interchange at 119th Street and I-35 and studying the best alternatives for the Santa Fe and I-35 Interchange and the nearby Santa Fe corridor. At year end, 26 priority traffic locations were at some point of improvement in locations such as Santa Fe and Ridgeview, K-7 (Parker), Lone Elm, and the 151st Street corridor, including the Mahaffie Circle extension under I-35.

Maintaining our City infrastructure is important now and critical for the future. In 2019, Olathe resurfaced or repaired more than 130 miles of Olathe streets as part of the street maintenance sales tax program. We're also making significant upgrades to our water plant to ensure continued safe and reliable drinking water.

Our community is making investments to keep Olathe one of the safest cities in America. We are adding four new police officers and three school resource officers in 2020. Measured against other top performing police departments, the Olathe Police Department is consistently one of the best.

The Insurance Services Office (ISO) ranks our Fire Department in the top one tenth of one percent of all departments nationwide. Olathe's cardiac survival rate is three times better than the national average. We are soon breaking ground on an eighth fire station to serve southwest Olathe and a new fire training center.

We're doing all of this and more as the nation's leader in providing residential services, according to surveys conducted

in more than 900 communities.

Finally, in 2019 we adopted the Olathe 2040: Future Ready Strategic Plan. As we look to our children's and grandchildren's future, this charts a course for an even better city with a focus on quality of life, sustainable and innovative infrastructure, a strong and diverse economy, and exceptional City services. I am confident that Olathe will remain a home where people want to raise their families.

While what we do as a City is important, I believe it's who we are that contributes most to our success. Olathe residents are outstanding. They serve on boards and committees, volunteer in our parks and libraries, shovel snow for those who need assistance, adopt streets and streams for cleanup, and routinely check on their neighbors.

On behalf of the Olathe City Council, have a happy and healthy 2020!

Sincerely,

Michael Copeland  
Mayor



Indian Creek Library grand opening



New Lake Olathe beach and dock

# SANTA FE STREET STUDY FOCUSES ON MULTIPLE TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS



Olathe is conducting a study to evaluate travel improvements on the Santa Fe Street corridor from Ridgeview to Mur-Len, including the I-35 Interchange area. The corridor and interchange must accommodate ever-increasing traffic and is already one of the most highly-traveled areas in Olathe.



## Goals of the Santa Fe Corridor Study

- Improve safety along the corridor
- Consolidate direct access to Santa Fe
- Increase capacity along the corridor and at the I-35 Interchange
- Reduce travel time along the corridor
- Improve transportation choices along the corridor and provide connectivity for active transportation over I-35
- Evaluate economic vitality and reinvented spaces
- Recommend logical phases for the proposed improvements
- Optimize traffic signal performance between Ridgeview and Mur-Len

## IMPORTANT CITY PHONE NUMBERS

Regular Business Hours: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
[OlatheKS.org/ServicesDirectory](http://OlatheKS.org/ServicesDirectory)

<b>EMERGENCY</b> .....	911	<b>OLATHE PUBLIC LIBRARY - Downtown</b>	
<b>Emergency TDD/TTY Calls</b> .....	911	201 E. Park St. ....	971-6850
<b>GENERAL INFORMATION</b>		<b>OLATHE PUBLIC LIBRARY - Indian Creek</b>	
(TDD/Voice) .....	971-8600	16100 W. 135th St. ....	971-6835
<b>CUSTOMER SERVICE</b>		<b>OLATHE PARKS &amp; RECREATION</b>	
(Billing, Trash, Water & Sewer)		<b>/COMMUNITY CENTER (TDD/Voice)</b>	
1385 S. Robinson. ....	971-9311	1205 E. Kansas City Rd .....	971-8563
<b>FIRE ADMINISTRATION</b>		<b>POLICE DEPARTMENT</b>	
(Non-Emergency)		501 E. 56 Highway .....	971-7500
1225 S. Hamilton Circle .....	971-7900	<b>HUMAN RESOURCES</b>	
		100 E. Santa Fe .....	971-8735

## OLATHE CITY COUNCIL

<b>Michael Copeland</b>	<b>Larry Campbell</b>
Mayor	Ward 1
913-971-8500	913-488-7278
(City office)	lcampbell@olatheks.org
mcopeland@olatheks.org	
<b>John Bacon</b>	<b>Adam Mickelson</b>
At-Large	Ward 2
913-269-6305	913-538-1197
jbacon@olatheks.org	amickelson@olatheks.org
<b>Karin Brownlee</b>	<b>Wes McCoy</b>
At-Large	Ward 3
913-484-3255	913-269-1035
kbrownlee@olatheks.org	rwmccoy@olatheks.org
	<b>Marge Vogt</b>
	Ward 4
	913-269-0625
	mvogt@olatheks.org

# PREPARING FOR WINTER AND #SNOLATHE

## WINTER STORM PREPARATION

City of Olathe snow plowing priorities keep motorists and pedestrians safe, ensuring emergency responders can reach those in need.

Major roadways and collector streets receive first attention, followed by residential streets and cul-de-sacs.

### Before the Storm

Park your vehicles in the driveway. If there is no driveway consider parking vehicles on the same side of the street.

Remove portable basketball goals, hockey goals, skateboard ramps, and other structures from the street.

Keep tree branches trimmed along the street to avoid snow plow truck hazards.

### Stay Safe

Call 911 if you have an emergency. Dispatchers will contact the snow removal operation if emergency vehicles need assistance reaching you.

Stay off the roads as much as possible. Roads can be cleared faster with less traffic.

If you must travel, stay back at least 50 feet from the rear of a plow truck.

Avoid passing or driving beside plow trucks to allow our larger trucks to plow multiple lanes of snow at once.

Follow the progress of snow plows with the interactive plow map at [OlatheKS.org/Snow](http://OlatheKS.org/Snow).

## PREVENT FROZEN PIPES

When the temperature dips to 20°F and lower, prepare for the possibility of frozen pipes in your home. At-risk areas for frozen pipes are located against your home's outside walls and in unheated spaces.

### What You Can Do

Let water run in a very slow drip from a faucet farthest away from water's entrance to the house. This will help keep water moving to reduce the chance of frozen pipes.

- Open cabinet doors that lead to exposed pipes to allow circulation of warmer, household air.
- Keep garage doors shut. Plumbing routed through unheated space leaves it vulnerable to cold air.
- Install pipe insulation products on exposed pipes, such as a "pipe sleeve," Underwriters Laboratories (UL)-listed "heat tape," "heat cable," or similar products.
- Keep your thermostat set above 65°F when away from your home or business for several days.



### To Thaw Pipes

Safely thaw the pipes as soon as possible, or call a plumber.

- If you're thawing the pipe, shut off the water. Starting near the faucet end, slowly apply heat with the faucet open, and work toward the coldest section. Slower is better. If you need the water shut off at the meter, call the City of Olathe at 913-971-9311.
- A hair dryer is appropriate for the job; a blow torch is NOT. Avoid electrocution. DO NOT use electrical appliances while standing in water.
- Check the other faucets around your home for additional frozen pipes. If one pipe freezes, others may freeze as well. For more information, please contact a licensed plumber.

## Effective Snow Clearing Tips

- 1** When shoveling, pile snow on the left side of the driveway (when facing your home) and shovel an inlet on the right side.
- 2** Avoid placing shoveled snow in the street to minimize the snow that plow trucks push back.
- 3** Shovel snow closer to your house at the beginning of the season to allow for more snow storage later on.

## PREPARING FOR #SNOLATHE

### STUDENT ARTISTS FROM OLATHE SCHOOLS PAINTED SNOW PLOWS TO BRIGHTEN CITY STREETS

**Liberty View Elementary** – 5th grade – Ms. Wertin

**Prairie Center Elementary** – Art – Ms. Frack

**Ravenwood Elementary** – 2nd grade – Ms. Kitchen

**Prince of Peace Early Education Center**

**Mill Creek Campus** – Art – Ms. Miller

**Northview Elementary** – 3rd–5th grades – Ms. Schnug



Ravenwood Elementary



Ravenwood Elementary



Prince of Peace Early Education



Prince of Peace Early Education



Northview Elementary



Northview Elementary



Prairie Center Elementary



Prairie Center Elementary

## MEET YOUR SNOW PLOW TEAM

Whether day or night, when winter weather hits, the #snolathe team has you covered! They run routes, cover zones, and man the sidelines to ensure all plays are running smoothly!

Each week this season, a starting lineup is released on social media. It features teammates like Jessica, Kevin, Mike, and Stacy, along with some of their favorite things!

See the roster we've built thus far at [OlatheKS.org/Snow](http://OlatheKS.org/Snow).

While there, match the drivers to the route and zone map to see which drivers keep your streets safe!



### Jessica Matthes

**Hometown:** Centerville, KS  
**Zone/Shift:** Primary Route 1, Day Shift  
**Preferred Food:** Sushi  
**Favorite Band:** In This Moment



### Kevin Tilley

**Hometown:** Collins, MO  
**Zone/Shift:** Primary Route 6, Day Shift  
**Preferred Food:** Steak  
**Favorite Band:** Rush



### Mike Richardson

**Hometown:** Olathe, KS  
**Zone/Shift:** Zone 11, Day Shift  
**Preferred Food:** Italian  
**Favorite Band:** Anything Oldies!



### Stacy Rugg

**Hometown:** Edgerton, KS  
**Zone/Shift:** Zone 5, Day Shift  
**Preferred Food:** Pizza  
**Favorite Band:** Anything Country!

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

### SNOW BRIGADE

The Olathe Snow Brigade is looking for volunteers to assist elderly and disabled residents with snow removal throughout the winter season. Volunteers are matched with program participants in their area and are activated when the area receives two or more inches of snow. Volunteers are asked to help clear areas the resident needs to access their home safely within 24-48 hours of a snow event.



### How to Volunteer

- Fill out the online volunteer application at [OlatheKS.org](http://OlatheKS.org)
- Choose "Snow Brigade" as your area of interest

## OLATHE RECOGNIZED AS A TOP 100 HEALTHIEST WORKPLACE IN AMERICA



The City of Olathe is recognized as one of the Healthiest 100 Workplaces in America by the Health Intelligence company Springbuk, Inc. More than 1,000 of America’s top well-being programs were evaluated for the award.

The announcement concludes a national year-long wellness awards program that recognizes winners for investing in the health and well-being of their employees and for the effectiveness of those initiatives. The City of Olathe was evaluated across six key categories: culture and leadership commitment, foundational components, strategic planning, marketing and communications, programming and interventions, and lastly, reporting and analytics.

## OLATHE NAMED TO “SAFEST CITIES IN AMERICA” AND “MOST LIVABLE MID-SIZED CITIES” LISTS

The City of Olathe is recognized as one of the “Top 10 Safest Cities in America” by financial technology company SmartAsset. Olathe is tied as the No. 4 ranked safest city in the country. SmartAsset identified Olathe’s low property crime rate, low vehicular mortality rate, low violent crime rate, and high air quality score.

Additionally, SmartAsset ranked Olathe as the No. 12 “Most Livable Mid-Sized City” in America. SmartAsset ranked the affordability and livability of U.S. mid-sized cities by looking at a variety of economic factors. Mid-sized cities in America are identified as those with populations above 100,000, excluding the 100 largest cities in the country.



## CENSUS DATA MATTERS TO OUR COMMUNITY

**CENSUS DAY IS APRIL 1, 2020**

**Ensure that YOU count and Olathe counts.**

An accurate count helps your community get its fair share of funding for education, health care, housing, nutrition, and public transportation assistance.

An under count in Olathe means our community could miss out on approximately \$60,000 in federal funding over 10 years for each household that is missed in the 2020 U.S. Census.

For the first time, you can answer the U.S. Census online, by phone, on paper or through the mail. Visit [CountMeInJoCo.org](http://CountMeInJoCo.org) for more information.



## DOWNTOWN OLATHE REDEVELOPMENT ADVANCING

Redevelopment in Downtown Olathe is in motion with a multifamily residential project planned for the southeast corner of Park and Chestnut Streets. The site currently houses the Downtown Olathe Library and adjacent parking. The residences will be constructed as two, five-story buildings. The plans call for 228 market rate residential units with groundbreaking expected in 2020.

The Envision Olathe Downtown Plan identifies the area for redevelopment to increase residential density and attract a localized customer base to downtown beyond regular business hours. The redevelopment is also consistent with the Olathe Comprehensive Plan, the Olathe 2040 Strategic Plan, and the Library Master Plan.

Plans for an updated downtown library in a new location are already underway. “Now that the Indian Creek Library is



completed, we’re focusing on the other key element of our Library Master Plan, a new, bigger and better downtown library,” says Emily Baker, Olathe Public Library director.

## OLATHE CITY COUNCIL ELECTION



Adam Mickelson



John Bacon



Larry Campbell



Michael Copeland

### New Councilmember Adam Mickelson

Adam Mickelson was elected Ward 2 City Councilmember in the Nov. 5, 2019 general election. Councilmember Mickelson has lived in Olathe for 10 years with involvement in the Olathe Citizens Police Advisory Council, 2019 Johnson County Sheriff’s Citizens Academy, and Johnson County Citizens Academy. He graduated from William Jewell College and has a master’s degree in business administration from UMKC. Councilmember Mickelson works in the software engineering industry. He and his wife, Courtney, have two daughters.

### Bacon, Campbell, Copeland Reelected

John Bacon was reelected as an At-Large City Councilmember. Bacon was first elected in April 1995 to represent Ward 3. In 2001, he was appointed to fill the at-large seat vacated by Mayor Copeland and was reelected in 2003, 2007, 2011, and 2015.

Councilmember Larry Campbell was reelected to serve Ward 1. He was elected in 2007, reelected in 2011, and again in 2015 to represent Ward 1. Larry previously served on the Olathe City Council as the Ward 1 representative from 1991-1995 and as mayor from 1995-2001.

Michael Copeland was reelected mayor—the 58th and longest-serving Olathe mayor. He was first elected mayor in 2001 after his service as At-Large Councilmember and mayor pro tem from 1995 to 2001. He was first elected to the Olathe City Council as Ward 4 Councilmember in 1993.



## DELICIOUS HISTORY AT MAHAFFIE

In November of 2019, Chef Walter Staib of “A Taste of History” fame and his crew visited Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm to film a segment of his popular show for 2020, the program’s

eleventh season. The Emmy Award-winning show focuses on culinary history and airs on PBS television and Amazon Prime. The subject of this episode is the Santa Fe Trail, and Mahaffie will have a prominent role. Chef Staib and Katie Lange (coordinator for Mahaffie’s living history programming) prepared four dishes, including a bison and vegetable stew and a dried peach pie on the farmhouse’s circa 1860 wood stove. Mahaffie staff anticipate the episode will air sometime in March. Watch for more details later this spring.

## DANCE PARTY, 1860s STYLE

For the second year in a row and in celebration of Kansas Statehood Day, Mahaffie will hold a dance with a caller and live music of the 1860s along with appropriate refreshments on Saturday night, January 25. Visit Mahaffie.org to purchase your tickets as space is limited. Clothing of the 1860s era is encouraged but not required.





P.O. Box 768  
Olathe, Kansas 66051-0768  
913-971-8700

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icon at OlatheKS.org.**

CONNECT WITH US



Apps available  
on the App Store  
and Google Play



# What's Your **#OLATHE ACTIVE?**

If your **#OLATHEACTIVE** is a 5:30 a.m. workout, then the Olathe Community Center is your place. The Olathe Community Center has a variety of group exercise classes, a fitness floor with weights and cardio equipment, indoor track, basketball courts, a pool, and health and wellness resources like personal trainers. Plus, there are no contracts, enrollment fees, or penalties to cancel when you purchase a membership. Stay #OlatheActive at your Olathe Community Center.

[OlatheKS.org/CommunityCenter](http://OlatheKS.org/CommunityCenter)  
 /OlatheParksRec