

EARLY SPRING 2020



Spring in bloom along 116th Street

OLATHE CONTINUES AS NATIONAL LEADER IN CITY SERVICES SATISFACTION

Olathe is setting the standard for public services satisfaction throughout the country, according to the most recent DirectionFinder® citizen survey data.

On a national scale, the City of Olathe is the number one rated city (in cities with 100,000 plus population) for the overall quality of city services at 94 percent - a satisfaction rate 45 percent higher than the U.S. average and 20 percent above the Kansas City Metro average.

Olathe is also number one in the nation in citizen satisfaction with the value received for tax dollars/fees (in cities with 100,000 plus population).

Citizen satisfaction with the quality of customer services again ranked high with the City of Olathe rated in the top 10 percent in the nation.

Olathe outperforms the Kansas City Metro region in all survey areas except traffic flow and management. While the City still ranks above the national average for satisfaction, traffic flow and management remains a top priority for Olathe residents and the City.

Since 2018, more than 16 areas received significant increases (five percent or more) in citizen satisfaction. The top three increases include: enforcing exterior maintenance of residential property (+12 percent), enforcing exterior maintenance of business property (+10 percent), and fire related education programs (+10 percent).

This is the 20th year for Olathe's DirectionFinder® survey, completed by ETC Institute of Olathe. Similar citizen surveys are conducted in 900 communities throughout the country. The complete DirectionFinder® report is available at [OlatheKS.org](https://www.OlatheKS.org). Search DirectionFinder.

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

Olathe Is ...
Number One in Overall Quality of City Services
Number One in Value Received for Tax Dollars/Fees



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

GET COUNTED FOR YOURSELF AND OLATHE!

U.S. Census Day — April 1, 2020

Why is the U.S. Census so important to Olathe? The U.S. Census will impact each and every one of us. It establishes our representation in Washington, D.C. and Topeka. In other words, it determines our voice in our state and federal governments.

The U.S. Census impacts how our schools are funded, our roads and highways are improved and cared for, and how we pay for critical services like police and fire.

So, it is important. Ensuring everyone is counted means our voice will be truly reflected.

As Olatheans, we send tens of millions of dollars to our state and federal government every year. The U.S. Census helps ensure an equitable share of that money is returned to our community. If not, it simply goes elsewhere.

In just the past 25 years, Olathe has doubled in population. Today we serve quadruple the residents we did 40 years ago.

Once rural roads now bustle with restaurants and shops. Acres of farmland are now thriving neighborhoods. Previously a sleepy prairie town, today Olathe is the fourth largest city in the metro and the state, and a critical component to the entire state's economy. We're home to thriving businesses, big

and small, as well as some of the best schools in the nation. We have first-class libraries, parks and trails, even the premier lake destination in Johnson County.

In our last U.S. Census in 2010, Olathe had just over 126,000 residents. Now approaching a population of 145,000, Olathe continues on the path of a thriving and vibrant community. We need to make sure our path is reflected, our voices are fairly represented, and state and federal funding is fairly returned to Olathe and not sent elsewhere.

We need your help to keep Olathe on this positive path. Make sure your household is counted in the 2020 U.S. Census.

Beginning in mid-March, residents

will receive notices in the mail with instructions on how to complete the U.S. Census online, by phone or by mail. This is the first time the U.S. Census Bureau has offered an online option, but don't worry — you can still use a paper form if you prefer.

Hundreds of people continue to move to Olathe each year. It's our privilege to welcome them to one of the best places in the country to raise a family. It's up to us to make sure we are all counted!

Sincerely,

Michael Copeland
Mayor



Top photo: Lake Olathe and surrounding area, late 1950s

Below: Growth is evident in a more recent view of Lake Olathe and the city's western area

DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP PROJECT TO INCLUDE NEW LIBRARY LOCATION

A new mixed-use, public/private partnership project in Downtown Olathe continues redevelopment plans for the heart of the city. The proposed five-story project will house the new Downtown Library, a restaurant, and offices, to be located east of Olathe City Hall on East Santa Fe Street.

The Olathe Library Master Plan identifies the need for a bigger and more modern library in downtown.

“While the final project has yet to come before the City Council for final consideration, it has incredible potential for our downtown,” says Mayor Michael Copeland. “This could mean new jobs, new opportunities, and new energy in our downtown.”

The Civic Center Park currently on the site will remain intact and be integrated into the new project to create a cohesive, welcoming area.



Photo by: DLR Group



TEMPORARY LIBRARY LOCATION

The Olathe Downtown Library will soon transition to a temporary location while the library’s new home is being constructed as part of a mixed-use project in Downtown Olathe.

The planned opening for the temporary location at 1078A W. Santa Fe is in mid-April. Visit OlatheLibrary.org for more information.



IMPORTANT CITY PHONE NUMBERS

Regular Business Hours: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
OlatheKS.org/ServicesDirectory

EMERGENCY	911
Emergency TDD/TTY Calls	911
GENERAL INFORMATION (TDD/Voice)	971-8600
CUSTOMER SERVICE (Billing, Trash, Water & Sewer) 1385 S. Robinson.....	971-9311
FIRE ADMINISTRATION (Non-Emergency) 1225 S. Hamilton Circle	971-7900

OLATHE PUBLIC LIBRARY - Indian Creek 16100 W. 135th St.	971-6835
OLATHE PUBLIC LIBRARY - Temporary Location 1078A W. Santa Fe	971-6850
OLATHE PARKS & RECREATION /COMMUNITY CENTER (TDD/Voice) 1205 E. Kansas City Rd	971-8563
POLICE DEPARTMENT 501 E. 56 Highway	971-7500
HUMAN RESOURCES 100 E. Santa Fe	971-8735

OLATHE CITY COUNCIL

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mvogt@olatheks.org

HAVE A PLAN BEFORE A TORNADO WATCH AND TORNADO WARNING



Photos: aftermath of Greensburg, Kans. tornado, May 2007

The National Weather Service issues a tornado watch when weather conditions in an area indicate an increased risk for severe weather that may be capable of producing a tornado. Warnings are issued when a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Plan before a watch or warning is issued.

Staying informed is important – it could save your life. Take steps now to receive timely information about severe weather conditions:

- Set up your mobile devices to receive weather information and alerts from trusted sources.
- Register with NotifyJoCo to sign up for local weather alert options – it’s free! Visit **NotifyJoCo.com**.
- Monitor local weather conditions provided by local radio and television.
- Consider purchasing a NOAA All Hazards Weather Radio.

Remember, outdoor warning sirens are not designed to alert people who are indoors.

Know the location of your storm shelter. A tornado warning may be issued with little or no warning.

When a tornado warning is issued, FEMA suggests you immediately go to a FEMA “safe room” or a small, interior windowless room in a sturdy building on the lowest level. Underground is best. Learn how to build a FEMA safe room in your home or small business at **www.fema.gov/residential-safe-rooms**.

If you have a question about severe weather or emergency management, call the Olathe Fire Department’s Homeland Security and Emergency Management Unit at 913-971-7900.

NEW ONLINE CITY SERVICES AVAILABLE

Sign up for a City of Olathe utility account at **BillPay.OlatheKS.org** to make it easier than ever to schedule City utility services, pay bills, or view water usage without having to pick up the phone.

NEW AT **BILLPAY.OLATHEKS.ORG**

View water usage annually/monthly/daily/hourly

View your annual water usage

Chat with customer service team about utility services

Schedule a curbside bulk waste pick-up online by clicking on manage services. Visit **OlatheKS.org** and search Bulk Waste Pick-up for additional details.

MORE ONLINE SERVICES AT **BILLPAY.OLATHEKS.ORG**

Start/Stop/Move utility services

View and/or download or save your monthly utility bill

View and/or download your utility payment history

Pay utility bill by check or debit/card (no debit/credit card fees assessed)

Set up automatic payments

ONLINE SERVICES AT **OLATHEKS.ORG**

Request water/sewer lines to be located

Schedule an appointment to drop off household hazardous and electronic waste

Submit a compliment/question/complaint for City staff

Sign up for ENotifications to receive periodic information about areas of interest (Parks & Recreation, etc.)

Request right-of-way permit (for driveways or working within 10 feet of curb)

Renew annual pet license

OLATHE CELEBRATES KING'S LEGACY

On Jan. 19, 2020, the Olathe community celebrated the leadership of Martin Luther King, Jr. at MidAmerica Nazarene University with special student music, an address from KMBC 9's Bryan Busby, and presentations to winners of the annual student visual and written arts content. The student contest attracted 5,040 entries from Olathe middle and high schools with a theme focused on King's courageous leadership.

Student Contest Winners

Best in Show

LyLena Estabine, Olathe Northwest High School, multi-media entry

Middle School Multi-Media

Cecilia Doyle, Emily Kelly, Emma Denton, Jonna Kumin, Kohen Breedlove and Makena Christenson, Prairie Trail Middle School
Brooke Ross, Santa Fe Trail Middle School
Hudson Marmon, Chisholm Trail Middle School

Middle School Visual Arts

Taylor Johnson and Risa Brekken, Prairie Trail Middle School
Ainsley Steenhard, Frontier Trail Middle School
Alvaro Junior Perez-Martinez, Santa Fe Trail Middle School

Middle School Writing

Skylar Saragusa, Chisholm Trail Middle School
Morgyn Miesner, Chisholm Trail Middle School
Darrell Riley Strait, California Trail Middle School

High School Multi-Media

LyLena Estabine, Olathe Northwest High School
Gannon Wallace, Olathe South High School
Stephanie Mutahi, Olathe North High School

This year's event celebrated its 20th anniversary and was presented by the Olathe Human Relations Commission, in partnership with Olathe Public Schools, MidAmerica Nazarene University, and the Olathe Public Library.



High School Visual Arts

Hugo Perez, Olathe North High School
Keilah Ware, Olathe South High School
Joel Gonzalez, Olathe Northwest High School

High School Writing

Mandi Marstall, Olathe South High School
Taylor Duncan, Olathe South High School
Peyton Falen, Olathe West High School

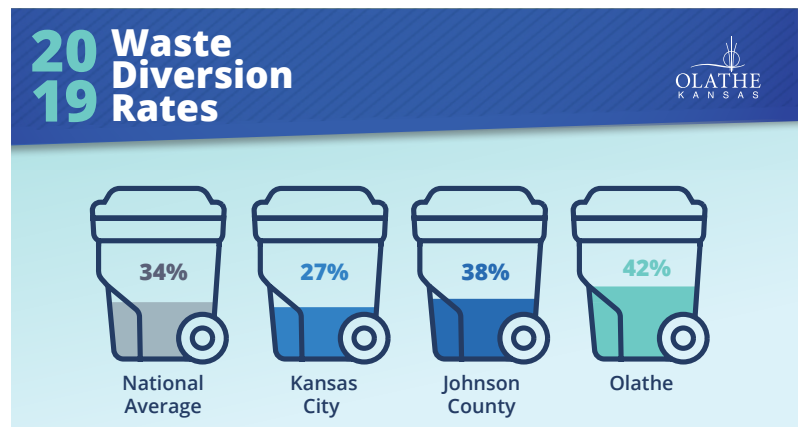
OLATHE NAMED TO BEST PLACES TO LIVE IN MIDWEST

Olathe is recognized as one of the 20 Best Places to Live in the Midwest by *Money Inc.*

"Above average high school graduation rates, excellent amenities, low unemployment rates, and safe, clean streets round out the pretty picture – and no doubt helps explain why the suburb ranks #1 in SmartAsset's round up of the most popular places in the U.S. for millennials to buy a home," says *Money Inc.* about Olathe.

Learn about Olathe's other recognitions and awards at [OlatheKS.org/government/city-council/city-awards-recognition](https://www.OlatheKS.org/government/city-council/city-awards-recognition).

OLATHE RESIDENTS DIVERTED 42.41 PERCENT OF WASTE FROM LANDFILLS IN 2019 UP FROM 40.03 PERCENT IN 2018!



FREEZE – THAW CYCLE IS BIGGEST CONTRIBUTOR TO POTHOLES




Potholes come with the Midwest climate. During cold weather, when rain or snow seeps into street pavement, the water freezes and expands, causing weakness in the pavement. When the ice melts, the pavement contracts. The impacted pavement is further weakened, resulting in bends and cracks. Add the weight of cars and trucks to the mix, and eventually portions of the pavement break down enough to form potholes.

Pothole Repairs

Filling potholes is the number one priority of Olathe Public Works Street Maintenance in early spring. City crews filled almost 7,200 potholes in 2019, with 4,000 repaired during the first quarter following the harsh winter weather of 2018-2019.

Cold weather repairs call for a “cold” asphalt mix until the weather warms enough for the “hot” asphalt repairs. The temporary repairs are made quickly, allowing crews to fill large quantities of potholes in a short amount of time.

Report Potholes

- Call Customer Service at 913-971-9311.
- Submit pothole locations and photos through OlatheConnect at [OlatheKS.org/OlatheConnect](https://www.olatheks.org/OlatheConnect), or download the OlatheConnect mobile app.
-  **New Waze Mobile App**
Drivers now have another way to report potholes on the go using Waze, a navigation & live traffic app. Olathe Public Works receives pothole notifications from Waze and turns them into work requests in the Computerized Maintenance Management System. The Public Works Street Maintenance Section then creates a task. Pothole crews have three days to make the pothole repairs. See reported potholes, street construction, and closures at <https://www.waze.com/livemap>. Download the Waze app free at the App Store or Google Play.



Saturday, April 4, 2020

9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**Shawnee Civic Centre
13817 Johnson Drive, Shawnee**

**STOP BY THE CITY OF
OLATHE’S BOOTH**

Learn about the Stormwater Cost Share Program

Discuss any drainage issues

Get Stormwater Friendly Yards information

Sign up for the Adopt-a-Stream program

Sign up to win a rain barrel (Olathe residents only)

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

2019 BY THE POUNDS

618k
PAINT

156k
ELECTRONICS

41k
OIL

37k
POISONS

9k
BATTERIES

3k
BULBS

In 2019, more than 9,000 residents dropped off 900,000+ pounds of household hazardous waste at the City’s facility. From paint to poisons to electronics, it’s important to safely dispose of these items to keep them from seeping into the ground and water sources.

Have items you need to dispose of?
Make an appointment today at [OlatheKS.org/HHW](https://www.olatheks.org/HHW).

DRIVING TRAFFIC ROUNDABOUTS



Roundabouts are designed to make intersections safer and more efficient for drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists. Roundabouts typically reduce injury collisions by 75 percent and fatality collisions by 90 percent, according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety and the Federal Highway Administration. Roundabouts also help in moving traffic to alleviate traffic congestion.

Driving Tips

- Enter and exit roundabouts slowly. Roundabouts are intended to slow traffic.
- Yield to traffic in the roundabout.
- Always check for pedestrians and bicyclists before entering and exiting the roundabout. Always yield to them in the crosswalk.
- Roundabouts are not all-way stops. Once you reach the yield line, check for a gap in traffic to your left. If you have a gap in traffic, enter the roundabout.
- Sometimes, drivers on all roundabout approaches enter the roundabout at the same time. That is acceptable.
- It is okay to make U-turns at roundabouts.

Plan Ahead Before Reaching Multi-Lane Roundabouts

- When approaching a multi-lane roundabout, check the black and white lane choice sign and pavement marking.
- Before reaching the roundabout, determine your destination upon exiting the roundabout for proper lane selection.
- To make left turns, drivers always need to be in the inside lane and maintain the inside lane until exit.
- To make right turns, drivers always need to be in the outside lane. Check your blind spot (you need to check if someone is beside you before you exit), and it is helpful to signal your right turn out before you reach the exit.
- If you're going straight, determine which lane to use ahead of time. For straight movements, it changes. Sometimes you can use both lanes to go straight. Sometimes it's one or the other lane.
- Never change lanes on the circulatory roadway.
- If a semitruck enters the roundabout at the same time as a car driver, the car driver shouldn't travel side by side with the semi truck on the circulatory roadway. Sometimes the rear portion of the trailer off tracks into the adjacent lane. It's best to give semitruck drivers additional space.

HYBRID PEDESTRIAN BEACONS COMING SOON

This year the City of Olathe will install hybrid pedestrian beacons for crosswalk safety at Santa Fe and Cherry Streets, and at 107th Terrace and Woodland Road. These will be the first traffic control signals of this type in Olathe.

The new beacons extend over the street, using a set of three steady or flashing lights – two red and one yellow – to alert and control vehicular traffic when a pedestrian is preparing to enter a crosswalk.

The beacon lights are activated only when a pedestrian pushes the activation button at either end of the crosswalk. Motorists should respond to yellow and solid red lights in the same manner as other traffic signals.

HOW TO USE THE HYBRID BEACONS

PEDESTRIANS		DRIVERS	
SEE THIS	DO THIS	SEE THIS	DO THIS
	PUSH THE BUTTON		DRIVE Always look for people who plan to cross
	STOP AND WAIT for the walk signal		SLOW DOWN A person has activated the push button
	START CROSSING Always watch for cars		PREPARE TO STOP
	FINISH CROSSING		STOP for pedestrian As with any signal red means STOP
			STOP FIRST Proceed with caution if no people are present

OlatheLINK

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

OlatheConnect

Look up information or submit a service request 24/7.
OlatheKS.org/OlatheConnect

Stay Informed

Receive Olathe news and updates by email or text message. **Click on e-notification or the envelope icon at OlatheKS.org.**

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Olathe, KS

CONNECT WITH US



Apps available on the App Store and Google Play

OLATHE CONNECT **TrashDay**

EASTER EGG HUNTS
JOEY THE BUNNY
PHOTO BOOTH
FOOD TRUCKS
ACTIVITIES FOR ALL

CELEBRATE
OLATHE

APRIL 10 5:30-7:30 PM
OLATHE COMMUNITY CENTER
1205 EAST KANSAS CITY RD
OLATHEKS.ORG/CELEBRATEOLATHE