

AUTUMN 2020



Law enforcement members from across the region led Mayor Copeland's funeral procession. The Olathe Fire Department hoisted the U.S. flag in honor of Olathe's longest-serving mayor.

COMMUNITY MOURNS MAYOR MICHAEL COPELAND'S PASSING

Olathe Mayor Michael Copeland passed away unexpectedly August 20, 2020 at age 58.

Mayor Mike, as he was commonly called, first joined the Olathe City Council in 1993, and was elected mayor in 2001, making him the longest serving mayor in the City's 162-year history. Mike moved to Olathe from California to play football at MidAmerica Nazarene University. He fell in love with the community he would one day lead. His contributions in Olathe and the region are numerous.

One of Mike's greatest joys was championing Olathe children's causes. He created the Olathe Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund Board in 2007, whose members he fondly referred to as Olathe's "big-hearted bigwigs." The Board, in partnership with the community, has raised over \$1.5 million for Olathe children's charities.

His passion for children's literacy shined in his "I Read with Mayor Mike" program, which was recognized by the National Points of Light Foundation, as well as by First Lady Laura Bush, who traveled to Olathe to highlight the initiative. Every year since the program began in 2005, Mayor Mike read to first graders in each Title I elementary school in the Olathe School



Story continues on page 3 and includes a message from Mayor Copeland's family on page 2.

119TH STREET AND I-35 INTERCHANGE CONSTRUCTION COMING SOON

The City of Olathe expects to break ground on the expanded and improved I-35 and 119th Street interchange before the end of the year.

The interchange project will bring significant improvements for safety, congestion, and travel times to the area. Improvements include a new diverging diamond interchange, more travel lanes on 119th Street, and added turn lanes on the I-35 exit ramps.

The City is planning a public meeting, both virtual and in-person, to provide information about the contractor's schedule. Visit [OlatheKS.org/119](https://www.OlatheKS.org/119) to find construction schedule updates and other project information.

Initial widening work is expected on the 119th Street bridge over the BNSF tracks, west of I-35. Lane drops can be expected during this work. After mid-2021, traffic will be restricted across I-35 for about three months. This closing will reduce the construction time nearly in half.

MESSAGE FROM THE COPELAND FAMILY



From the bottom of our hearts, **thank you** for the outpouring of love and support received from so many. We greatly appreciate the meals, cards, flowers, and cherished stories of Mike shared with us. Your precious expressions of sympathy have been a deep source of comfort and strength. We have been truly overwhelmed by your thoughtfulness and generosity, and it is your love for Mike and our family that has carried us through these very difficult days.

Mike devoted most his life to public service and Olathe, *the City Beautiful*. As one of his greatest loves, we know his unexpected passing leaves a huge void in our community too. As we struggle to find our way forward as a family, we know his City family grieves his loss greatly as well. Mike knew he was only one part of a great team who were dear friends he admired greatly.

As difficult as it is to imagine a future without Mike, we know the firm foundation he has laid these past 27 years will keep Olathe strong, for it is paved with compassion, love, integrity and a commitment to excellence. As Mike said in his last Mayor's Message column, Olathe is a resilient community because we care about one another. We can overcome any challenge and we will find our way forward.

As Mike's family, we ask you to join our family in honoring Mike's memory and legacy by finding your place to serve one another, act with love, show kindness to others, and invest in our children. These acts will ensure not only the legacy of a beloved man and Mayor, but also the legacy of Olathe for generations and generations to come.



While Mike achieved many milestones as Mayor, his greatest legacy is his family and his unwavering faith. Because of that faith our family will find our way forward, not without sorrow, but with confidence and hope for the future, as Mike would want.

We believe the closing words of Mike's memorial service would be the blessing Mike would impart upon our entire community – his beloved City of Olathe.

*The LORD bless you
and keep you;
the LORD make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the LORD turn his face toward you
and give you peace.*

With grateful hearts,
Maria, Olivia, Abigail and Joshua Copeland



COMMUNITY MOURNS MAYOR MICHAEL COPELAND'S PASSING

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District. He was a constant and passionate champion of Olathe schools and education.

During Mike's tenure, Olathe transformed from a bedroom community to a world-class city. Olathe grew by nearly 50,000 residents, added 18 parks and numerous trails, the Olathe Community Center, a new City Hall, downtown revitalization, the new Indian Creek Library, and most recently, Lake Olathe Park. Mike also saw completion of many major transportation projects, including the Santa Fe railroad grade separation, the 127th Street overpass, and the Lone Elm interchange.

His vision and leadership have ensured that Olathe's government is transparent, resilient, and fiscally strong. As a result, resident satisfaction levels for the quality of City services and quality of life have become some of the highest in the nation. Olathe is known as one of the nation's safest cities and best places to live.

Mike was not only engaged in Olathe, but throughout the region. Among many other volunteer boards and committees, he served on the Bi-State Commission since its inception, the Union Station Kansas City Board of Directors, the KVC Health Systems Board of Directors, and the University of Kansas Hospital Authority Board. He also participated in numerous philanthropic groups and causes.

Mike often said that nothing made him prouder than knowing that Olatheans deeply value and care for each other. He believed it was Olathe's tremendous community spirit that made our city great, and he was truly Olathe's best cheerleader. He established the Olathe Cathedral Builder Award, which he proudly presented each year to individuals who had made outstanding contributions in building the Olathe community.

While Mike leaves an enduring legacy of leadership in Olathe and beyond, he would say his greatest legacy is his wife of 24 years, Maria, and his children, Olivia, Abigail, and Joshua.

View more information about Mike's many contributions and his public service at OlatheKS.org.

JOHN BACON INSTALLED AS OLATHE MAYOR



John Bacon was installed as mayor at the Sept. 1, 2020 Olathe City Council meeting.

The Olathe City Council met Sept. 1, 2020 for the first time in 27 years without Michael Copeland on the Council. Following a video homage to former Mayor Copeland and tributes to him from each Councilmember, Judge Katie McElhinney installed John Bacon as mayor of Olathe. Larry Campbell, Ward 1 City Councilmember, was installed as mayor pro tem.

Bacon was serving as mayor pro tem when Mayor Copeland passed. Bacon will serve as mayor, according to City Municipal Code, until the next regular City election when the office of mayor is duly elected.

Mayor John Bacon is in his ninth term on the City Council, serving most recently in the at-large seat. He was first elected in April 1995, to represent Ward 3. He previously served on the Kansas State Board of Education. Mayor Bacon is self-employed as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA).

Mayor Bacon said of Michael Copeland, "I can't begin to say how much Mike will be missed. I lost a great friend of 40 years, and the community lost a true advocate and cheerleader who loved Olathe. Olathe loved Mike as well. We will do our best to carry on his legacy."

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

John Bacon
Mayor
913-971-8500
(City office)
jbacon@olatheks.org

At-Large
City Council
Appointment
In process

Karin Brownlee
At-Large
913-484-3255
kbrownlee@olatheks.org

Larry Campbell
Ward 1
Mayor Pro Tem
913-488-7278
lcampbell@olatheks.org

Adam Mickelson
Ward 2
913-538-1197
amickelson@olatheks.org

Wes McCoy
Ward 3
913-269-1035
rwmccoy@olatheks.org

Marge Vogt
Ward 4
913-269-0625
mvogt@olatheks.org

SANTA FE AND RIDGEVIEW INTERSECTION

Santa Fe Street, west of I-35, opened to traffic three weeks ahead of schedule. The next phase of work is underway on Ridgeview Road. During this phase, Ridgeview Road will close on the north and south sides of Santa Fe Street for approximately 16 weeks. This includes:

- Ridgeview Road, from Spruce Street to Santa Fe Street. Business access remains open.
- Ridgeview Road, from Santa Fe Street to Park Street.

By mid-October phase two construction is expected to be 50 percent complete. The completed intersection will have two left turn and two through lanes for each intersection quadrant, dedicated right turn lanes for northbound, southbound, and eastbound traffic, and a shared through/right turn lane for westbound traffic.

Visit OlatheKS.org/SantaFeConstruction to see the latest project updates.

MAHAFFIE CIRCLE EXTENSION NEARS COMPLETION

This new traffic connection, from the 151st Street corridor to Old 56 Highway and I-35, is expected to open in December 2020. Crews are completing the street pavement placement and constructing a retaining wall.

WOODLAND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, K-10 HIGHWAY TO COLLEGE BOULEVARD

Woodland Road work will provide a four-lane, divided road, including landscaped medians, sidewalks, bike lanes, and streetlights. This fall, construction will shift to Woodland Road's west side, following completion of the east side construction. Weather dependent, the surface pavement should be placed on Woodland Road near the end of 2020.

LONE ELM ROAD, OLD 56 HIGHWAY TO 151ST STREET

Work continues on Lone Elm Road improvements and the railroad bridge widening. Grading has also started for intersection improvements at Lone Elm Road and Old 56 Highway.

New traffic signals are planned for a continuous flow intersection to move left-turning vehicles away from the main intersection, eliminating conflicts with opposing traffic. Vehicles turning left cross the oncoming travel lanes and funnel into dedicated turn-lanes at a signalized location several hundred feet ahead of the main intersection. This will be the first continuous flow intersection in Kansas and in the Kansas City area.

More information about driving a continuous flow intersection is available at OlatheKS.org/LoneElm.

The Lone Elm Road project's completion is expected in 2021.



THANKS FOR A GREAT SUMMER!

Olathe Parks & Recreation extends a heart-felt thanks to residents and visitors for supporting facilities, programs, and activities this summer. Although we all experienced challenges due to the coronavirus pandemic, we were proud to provide ways for the community to stay active and connected—even at a distance.

In June we opened Black Bob Bay, Mill Creek Pool, Lake Olathe Beach and Marina, and the Olathe Community Center. Staff adapted operations to help control capacity and mitigate the spread of illness. Out of an abundance of caution, several spring and summer events, such as Celebrate Olathe and Olathe Live!, were canceled or postponed. However, City organizers worked tirelessly to ensure the City of Olathe Fourth of July Fireworks Show could go on safely. In addition, several recreation programs and activities took place with safety procedures in place.

Farmers Markets were available this season at the Stagecoach Park and Black Bob Park locations and continue to operate Saturdays through Oct. 24, 7:30 a.m. until items are sold.

WHAT'S BEING BUILT IN OLATHE



The City of Olathe has broken ground for the new permanent Fire Station No. 8, near 148th Street and Lakeshore Drive. This station will serve the growing southwest area of Olathe.



Howell Family Dentistry is constructing a building at 149th Street and Black Bob Road.



An expansion at Olathe Medical Center, 20333 W. 151st St., includes several new operating rooms and a pharmacy.



Raising Cane's restaurant is going up near 135th Street and Black Bob Road, in front of the Hen House grocery store.

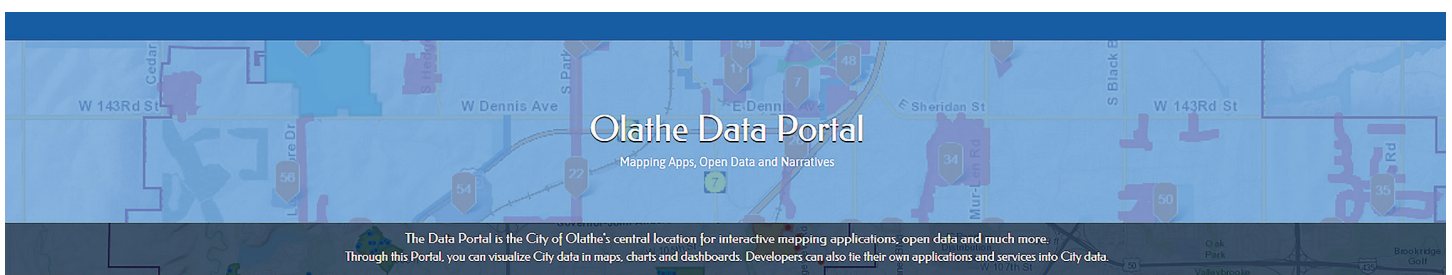
HAPPENING DOWNTOWN



Cherry Street Nutrition recently opened at 106 S. Cherry St.



My Child Advocate renovated a home at 313 N. Chestnut St. This will be a center dedicated to helping stabilize families by providing children a voice for their best interests.



NEW DATA PORTAL OFFERS CENTRAL LOCATION FOR OLATHE INFORMATION

The City of Olathe has launched a new online data portal with abundant information in one place. Explore **Data. OlatheKS.org** for a variety of City information shown in charts, dashboards, and interactive maps, including:

- Park and trail finder
- Road construction
- Capital improvements
- Building and planned construction
- Crime
- Snow plow tracking
- Historic properties.

The online portal offers several layers of information with in-depth material showing how City departments are using data to address potential service challenges, enhance current services, and support public safety. In addition, private developers may use the City data for their own applications.

“Making information available to the community builds upon the City of Olathe’s avenues for a transparent local government,” says Chief Information Officer Mike Sirna.

So far, 35,395 users have visited the portal, with the 2021-2025 adopted Capital Improvements Plan the most viewed area. Sirna expects information will be added to the data portal based on feedback from users. In the short term, monthly updates are planned for population data.

Questions about the data portal can be directed to the City of Olathe GIS department at GIS@OlatheKS.org.

GOLD AWARDS RECOGNIZE OLATHE'S OUTSTANDING WATER QUALITY PROTECTION

The City of Olathe has received performance Gold Awards for both wastewater treatment facilities, the Cedar Creek and Harold Street Plants. The National Association of Clean Water Agencies recently announced the Peak Performance Awards for 2019.

Gold Awards recognize plants with 100 percent compliance with discharge permits. Olathe Environmental Services reported more than 5,000 compliant data points to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment in 2019. The Harold Street Plant has received the Gold Award for three consecutive years.

Wastewater treatment protects our waterways by:

- Removing ammonia. It's toxic to fish and other aquatic life.
- Removing nitrates to protect downstream sources of drinking water.
- Disinfecting harmful bacteria with ultraviolet lights to avoid putting chemicals into the environment.
- Removing nitrogen and phosphorus with a biological process to prevent algal blooms in the receiving streams.

By-products generated from the Harold Street Plant treatment process support Olathe's sustainable practices. Methane gas is reused to save on natural gas bills, and all biosolids are composted into a nutrient-rich soil amendment. Parks and Recreation, Stormwater Management and other City operations use the compost to reduce operating costs.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULES AND RECYCLING TIPS

Trash, Recycling, and Yard Waste Collection Schedules

Thanksgiving

Collection will be delayed by one day for only Thursday and Friday pickups.

Christmas Day and New Year's Day

Collection will be delayed one day for Friday pickups only.

Household Hazardous Waste Facility

The facility will be closed on Thanksgiving, and the Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving. It will also be closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day and the Saturday after those holidays.

Transfer Station and Compost Facility

These facilities will be closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

Sign up for free collection reminders and holiday schedules by visiting OlatheKS.org/TrashDay, or download the TrashDay app in the App Store or Google Play.

Recycle Christmas Cheer

Box and Gift Wrap Recycling

- Recycle all types of cardboard boxes (corrugated and/or pressed paper board). All boxes must be broken down and flattened for collection.
- Recycle clean wrapping paper as long as it has no metal or plastic.
- Place strings, rope, ribbon, yarn, and bows in the trash. These items are not recyclable.

Christmas Tree Recycling

- Recycle your cut Christmas tree by placing it at the curb on collection day, or drop off trees at the Composting Facility, 127th and Hedge Lane, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Saturday.
- **Important:** All ornaments, lights, tinsel, tree stands, and plastic bags MUST be removed.



BULK WASTE COLLECTION – LET THE MECHANICAL CLAW DO THE HEAVY LIFTING!

- Place glass on top.
- Avoid placing items on or next to a fire hydrant or behind basketball hoops or mailboxes.
- Yard waste, appliances, and other miscellaneous items scheduled for disposal should be separated in piles at the curb.
- Place items on top of cardboard or plywood to avoid damage to your yard, street, or curb from the claw.
- There is a \$20 minimum fee for residential bulk waste collections. Other fees for specific items and commercial collections apply. Visit OlatheKS.org and search bulk waste pick-up for details.

Schedule a bulk waste collection online! Sign into your City of Olathe utility account at billpay.olatheks.org and click “manage services.” Or, call 913-971-9311. Requests should be scheduled before 4 p.m. the day before your regular trash collection day.

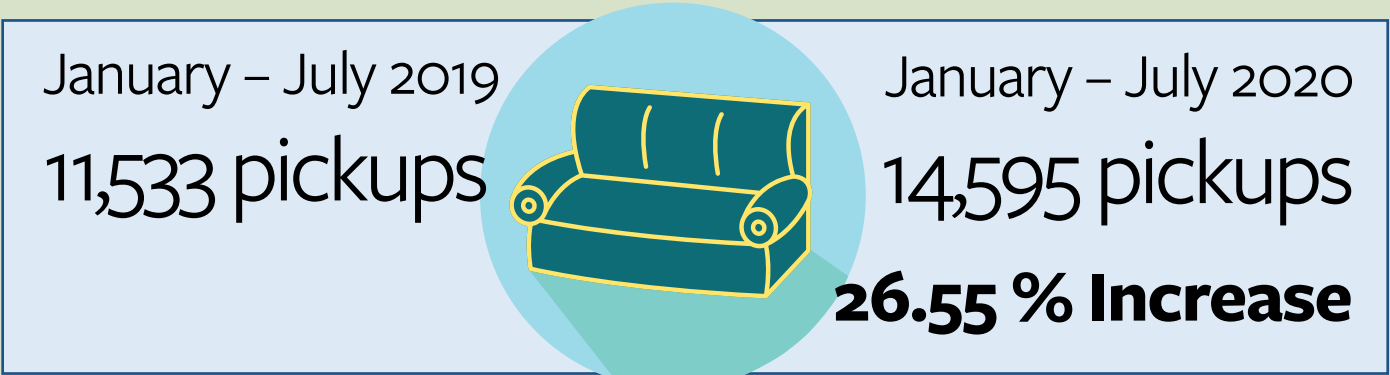
Do you have a large item, such as an old sofa or appliance you would like to get rid of? Olathe residents and businesses can schedule a curbside pick-up of large or bulky items for a small fee on their scheduled trash collection day.

Please Remember

- All items must be placed within eight feet of the curb before 8 a.m. on your trash collection day.
- Items are collected mechanically with a large claw designed to lift furniture and appliances.

COVID-19 may be impacting household trash production and bulk pickup numbers. Compared to the same period in 2019, Olathe 2020 waste disposal trends show residents generated more residential trash and have requested more bulk waste pickups.

BULK WASTE PICKUPS



RESIDENTIAL TRASH COLLECTED



Olathe LINK

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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CONNECT WITH US






Apps available
on the App Store
and Google Play

OLATHE
CONNECT **OLATHE**
TrashDay

Check Mahaffie.org for
upcoming events.



1200 E. Kansas City Rd.
Olathe, KS 66061
phone: 913-971-5111
web: Mahaffie.org

   /mahaffiefarm

