



Olathe first-grader Ella's snow plow design was one of the winners in the annual design contest. Ella's parents and her friends Aubrey and Emerson helped her paint the plow.

119TH STREET AND I-35 INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS BEGIN



Work is underway to improve safety, traffic flow, and travel times in the 119th Street and I-35 interchange area. The current interchange, which has outlived its useful design and carries one of the highest traffic volumes in Kansas, will be expanded and reconfigured to a diverging diamond interchange. The project includes more travel lanes for 119th Street and the I-35 exit ramps. The 119th Street and Renner Road intersection will also be expanded to accommodate greater capacity.

In the coming months, lanes will be closed on Kansas City Road under 119th Street during work to widen the BNSF railway bridge. Additionally, paving on 119th Street between Renner Road and Ridgeview Road through 2021 may result in lane reductions.



Beginning as early as July 2021, the 119th Street bridge over I-35 will be closed to traffic for 90 days, reducing the project's construction time by nearly half. During this closing, right turn movements will remain available on both sides of the 119th Street/I-35 bridge.

Sign up to receive alerts about major traffic impacts at [NotifyJoCo.org](https://www.NotifyJoCo.org).

More information about the project and updates are available at [OlatheKS.org/119](https://www.OlatheKS.org/119).

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



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Olathe is a great city and serving as your new mayor is an honor.

While 2020 has presented all of us many challenges, the City of Olathe continues moving forward in 2021 serving our residents and businesses with exceptional services.

In the coming year, we'll further address residents' number one priority — traffic improvements. Work has started on an expanded and improved interchange at I-35 and 119th Street. You can expect projects geared to improving traffic flow in several locations throughout the city. These improvements inevitably cause disruption.

SERVING AS YOUR NEW MAYOR IS AN HONOR

I ask for your patience and understanding on our upcoming upgrades. In return, you can be assured we're doing all we can to minimize disruptions. We want to do the best we can, and want your input. We are listening.

One of Olathe's busiest intersections, Santa Fe Street and Ridgeview Road, recently reopened to better serve this area. Woodland Road improvements are nearly complete and we expect the Mahaffie Street extension under I-35 to open soon.

This is just a small part of the exciting projects we have in the works for the next year. As your mayor, here is my commitment to you for 2021.

We will do everything possible to support the path of excellence we have traveled. We will work hard to ensure Olathe remains one of America's safest cities, with first-class neighborhoods and an exceptional quality of life. This commitment extends to supporting business growth, attracting new jobs, and

investments because that is what our community deserves.

I'm confident we will be successful because I'm surrounded by a great team on the City Council. They're dedicated to what's best for the community and excellence for Olathe. We'll also be successful because I believe we have the finest City staff in the country, who share an unmatched commitment to serving you.

Finally, and likely most important, Olathe will remain such an extraordinary city because of you. This past year our residents reminded us of their outstanding resilience, steadfast community spirit, and heart. Because of you, Olathe has a tremendous future. Thank you for letting me be a part of it.

Sincerely,

John Bacon
Mayor

NEW AT-LARGE COUNCILMEMBER WES MCCOY



Former Ward 3 City Councilmember Wes McCoy is the new At-Large Councilmember following the City Council's unanimous appointment on

Oct. 6, 2020. He fills the unexpired At-Large position left vacant by Mayor

Bacon. Councilmember McCoy will complete the term of the At-Large position through January 2024.

"While serving Ward 3 was a great experience, I'm excited to further serve Olathe in the At-Large position," says McCoy. "This new role reflects my commitment to citizens throughout city."

Councilmember McCoy was elected Ward 3 City Councilmember for the first time

in 2013. He previously served on the Olathe Public Library Board, the 2020 Olathe Strategic Planning Committee, and Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm Historic Site planning committee. He is active in the Olathe Santa Fe Trail Rotary Club.

He founded an independent insurance agency in 1975. Wes and his wife, Nancy, have two daughters and three grandchildren.

NEW WARD 3 COUNCILMEMBER KEVIN GILMORE



Kevin Gilmore is the newly appointed Ward 3 City Councilmember, sworn in Nov. 3, 2020. He is filling Councilmember Wes McCoy's position, who is now an At-Large Councilmember.

Councilmember Gilmore's term of service runs through January 2022.

In 1979, Councilmember Gilmore arrived in Olathe to attend MidAmerica Nazarene University and has called the city his home ever since.

His elected positions include leadership roles on the USD 233 Board of Education

and the Kansas State Board of Education. Additionally, Councilmember Gilmore's community service extends to many civic and charitable organizations, including the Olathe Santa Fe Trail Rotary Club, Shepherd's Care Ministries, Inc., and the Olathe Chamber of Commerce.

He and his wife, Julie, have three sons and four grandchildren.

OFFICERS' ACTS OF KINDNESS CHANGES HOMELESS MAN'S LIFE

Several weeks ago Police Officers Drew Fitzpatrick and Tyler Petitt responded to a public intoxication call. They found a homeless gentleman, an individual well-known to the Police Department. This man suffers ongoing effects from a traumatic brain injury. Often found sleeping on the sidewalk or stumbling as a result of the physical impairment, the public frequently calls out of concern for his safety.

Seeing he was sober, the officers feared his location and stumbling may collectively make him a target. As the officers prepared to drive him to a homeless shelter, the man shared if he went to a shelter he couldn't make it to his doctor's appointment the following morning. Walking is his only form of transportation.

These officers could have bought him a soda and simply let the gas station manager know he was not intoxicated, or countless other scenarios. But they didn't. They looked at this gentleman not as an "other," but as someone they couldn't bear see sleep on the hard concrete one more night. Officers Fitzpatrick and Petitt drove him to the Econo Lodge across from Olathe Police Headquarters and paid for his hotel room with their own money.

"He's part of our community, just like everyone else, and deserves to be treated with the same respect as everyone else. We



From left: Olathe Police Officers Timothy Green, Tyler Petitt, and Drew Fitzpatrick helped a homeless man with their kindness.

were fortunate to be in a position to help, so that's what we did," says Officer Fitzpatrick.

Before their shifts ended, the officers contacted Officer Timothy Green about finding a more permanent solution for the gentleman. While Officer Green has served as a resource to this man for years, answering his frequent phone calls — he found something changed in the man. Likely prompted by the officers' kindness, the man reconnected with his father and is now

housed in a neighboring suburb. Armed with housing resources he actively pursued, Officer Green let him know there are always options available in Olathe should he want to return.

"Arresting people is only a sliver of what we do. We regularly address domestic violence, child welfare, mental health, and other critical areas with limited resources. But at the end of the day, protecting all citizens, however that looks, is what law enforcement is really about," says Officer Petitt.

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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913-488-7278
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Kevin Gilmore
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913-768-8285
kpgilmore@olatheks.org

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



SANTA FE STREET AND RIDGEVIEW INTERSECTION

Improvements to the Santa Fe Street and Ridgeview intersection are substantially complete. Ridgeview Road opened to through traffic Nov. 14. The intersection's completion work includes brick paving in the medians, streetlight installation, and sod restoration.

MAHAFFIE STREET EXTENSION

A new alternate route from the 151st Street and Ridgeview Road corridor is scheduled to open in early January, weather permitting. The extended Mahaffie Street is a direct connection between 151st Street and Old 56 Highway near the northbound I-35 entrance ramp. It's expected up to 10,000 vehicles daily will use this street, decreasing traffic's impact to the 151st Street corridor, Ridgeview Road, and nearby areas.

159TH STREET AND BLACK BOB ROAD INTERSECTION

This intersection improvement will include additional turn lanes, improved sight distance, and traffic signals. Work is expected to start in December 2020 with completion by the end of 2021, weather permitting.

175TH STREET AND LONE ELM ROAD INTERSECTION

Be alert to new traffic signals at the 175th and Lone Elm Road intersection. Additional turn lanes are also new on Lone Elm Road's northbound and southbound approaches, providing left, through, and right turn lanes.



An improved Santa Fe Street and Ridgeview Road intersection opened in November, providing more efficient traffic flow.

WOODLAND ROAD, COLLEGE BOULEVARD TO K-10 HIGHWAY

Woodland Road's widening to four lanes is nearly complete. Street pavement will be finished near the end of 2020, weather dependent. Woodland Road's substantial completion is expected in January 2021. The City of Olathe appreciates the patience required for the project during COVID-19 construction limitations.

LONE ELM ROAD, OLD 56 HIGHWAY TO 151ST STREET

Widening Lone Elm to four lanes from Old 56 Highway to 151st Street is progressing. Pavement work on the west side is complete. Lone Elm should be open to traffic (one lane in each direction) before the end of the year. This project also includes constructing a continuous flow intersection at Lone Elm and Old Highway 56 in 2021. It will reduce delays by allowing left turns and through lane movements at the same time. Learn more about continuous flow intersections at OlatheKS.org/56HWY

OLATHE LEADING THE WAY

The City of Olathe received a Leading the Way Award from ETC Institute, recognizing Olathe as one of the nation's top 10 percent local government performers in three core areas:

- Citizen satisfaction with the overall quality of services
- Citizen satisfaction with customer service provided by employees
- Satisfaction with the value residents think they receive for local taxes and fees.

Olathe Achieves No. 1 Overall Ratings

In addition to ranking in the top overall 10 percent, the City of Olathe has the highest satisfaction rating among more than 200 communities in:

- Yard waste services
- Household hazardous waste services
- Effectiveness of city manager and appointed staff

- Stormwater management (tied for #1)
- Communication (tied for #1)
- City's use of social media.

Olathe Rates No. 1 Among Communities with 100,000-plus Residents

- Customer services
- Leadership of elected officials
- Public safety services
- Water services
- Adequacy of street lighting
- Bulk item pick-up
- Curbside recycling.

The award data is from communities in ETC Institute DirectionFinder® research, August 2019-July 2020.

ETC Institute is located in Olathe.

2020 CATHEDRAL BUILDER AWARDS

The Olathe Cathedral Builder Award, established by former Mayor Michael Copeland, honors extraordinary people and leaders, whose service, vision, and lasting contributions have helped build our great community. Mayor John Bacon presented two awards at the Nov. 20 State of the City event.

Olathe Health



Since its beginnings in the 1950s, Olathe Health has played a key role in building the community's quality of life foundation. This year when faced with challenges of a global pandemic, Olathe Health's team stepped up care to provide a safe, healing environment at its hospitals and clinics. This team offered additional ways to provide care with a COVID-19 nurse hotline, expanded telehealth services, and Spot Saver, an online service that allows patients to wait at home until it's time to be seen.

Olathe Health was again named "One of the Most Wired Health Systems" by the American Hospital Association, speaking to the value of technology in caring for patients.

Masks of Mercy

Olathe's Masks of Mercy, founded by LeEtta Felter, demonstrates the power and dedication of community volunteers when a need becomes apparent. Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, Masks of Mercy volunteers began making masks with donated materials and funds. The masks served Olathe first responders, other front-line essential workers, and long-term care facilities.

Masks of Mercy's initiative grew rapidly to meet the need in our community and beyond. This massive effort has provided 30,000 fabric barrier masks and 500 COVID Guardian masks (3D printed for medical professionals) at no cost. These masks have served immunocompromised individuals, churches, schools, hospitals, homeless shelters, law enforcement, service organizations, the COVID Care Force, the honor guard at Arlington National Cemetery, New Mexico's Navajo Nation, and many more.



STREET PRESERVATION

The Street Preservation Program is critical to keep Olathe streets in good usable condition for as long as possible. It also provides a process to rehabilitate street surfaces in fair condition, which in turn prevents additional streets from deteriorating and requiring total reconstruction.



CITY'S SIGN SHOP REDUCES COSTS UP TO 60 PERCENT



Nearly half of the 25,000 City-owned street signs throughout Olathe are street name signs. The City of Olathe sign shop produces custom street name signs, replacing up to 2,500 a year and adding 500 new signs. The lifespan of these signs is about 10 years, primarily due to sun exposure. New street name signs are always needed in a growing city.

Fortunately, the City's sign shop, using its large format digital latex printer, saves an average 60 percent in street name sign costs.



MORE DOWNTOWN AREA IMPROVEMENTS

Stormwater and Streets

Investment continues in Olathe’s downtown neighborhoods with stormwater improvements, street improvements, and a new section of trail. Located north of Santa Fe Street in the Mill Creek area, construction will primarily focus on stormwater and sanitary sewer improvements. A combination of capital improvements and limited home buyouts will remove as many as 20 buildings from the Federal Emergency Management (FEMA) regulated floodplain. This area along Mill Creek has a history of flooding structures and topping over streets.

Improvements are underway to Cherry Street, Spruce Street to Poplar Street, and to Poplar Street, Cherry Street to Chestnut Street. Beginning spring 2021 you can expect to see stormwater and street improvements construction

along Mill Creek north of Santa Fe and south of Mulberry Street, including:

- Bridges replacing culverts at Chestnut, Spruce, and Poplar Streets
- Street pavement reconstruction
- Channel deepening and widening
- Retaining walls construction
- Storm sewer improvements
- Utility relocations
- Home buyouts.

More information about the Mill Creek Stormwater and Downtown Street Improvement Projects, including maps, timelines, and funding information is available at:

OlatheKS.org/MillCreek

Mill Creek Trail to Connect Downtown

The stormwater and street improvements occurring north of Santa Fe Street provide an opportunity to construct a half mile section of trail extending northwest from Water Street to Northgate. This Mill Creek Trail connection will provide access to Downtown Olathe, including the planned downtown library, Civic Center Park, Mill Creek Park, businesses, and residential neighborhoods. The Mill Creek Trail will connect to the Gary L. Haller trail system, which extends north to the Kansas River. Trail construction will occur in 2021.

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 to help keep water moving.
- Open doors that lead to exposed pipes to allow in warmer 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,” (UL)-listed “heat tape,” “heat cable,” or similar products.
- Keep your thermostat set above 65°F when away from your home.

Safely thaw 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. DO NOT use electrical appliances while standing in water.
- Check the other faucets around your home for additional frozen pipes. For more information, please contact a licensed plumber.

CITY OF OLATHE PARTICIPATING IN COVID-19 RESEARCH



City of Olathe Environmental Services is supporting COVID-19 public health research in collaboration with the University of Kansas School of Engineering, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Johnson County Health and Environment, and local utilities. Researchers learned early in the COVID-19 pandemic that the viral material can be detected in human waste through research public health officials call wastewater-based epidemiology.

Since early October 2020, sampling has occurred from three wastewater treatment plant intake points serving Olathe. Each week, University of Kansas students pick up the samples for COVID-19 testing at the University. The research results will be shared nationwide with researchers to develop best practices for detecting and combating the virus.

“We’re pleased the City of Olathe can advance public health and support this emerging technology to help fight disease,” says John Gilroy, Environmental Services manager.

Monitoring COVID-19’s genetic indicators in wastewater can reveal trends in the virus’ spread. It can show if the virus is increasing or decreasing in a particular wastewater basin and serves as a non-intrusive way to monitor public health. Similarly, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, wastewater monitoring efforts detected norovirus, antibiotic-resistant bacteria, polio, and measles outbreaks in a number of countries.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE GUIDELINES

The City of Olathe encourages you to bring Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) to the drop-off facility at either the monthly second Saturday events, 8 a.m.- 2 p.m., or by appointment. Please note the materials limit at the second Saturday drop-offs. Please stay in your vehicle when dropping off items.

Second Saturday HHW Drop-off Guidelines

- Liquid/chemical waste must be less than five gallons (also applies to appointment drop-offs).
- Paint must not exceed 25 gallons (also applies to appointment drop-offs).
- Oil must not exceed five gallons.
- Label items not in their original container.
- Containers will not be returned.
- E-waste is not accepted at the second Saturday events, only at scheduled appointments for Olathe residents.
- Plan to provide your photo ID.
- Provide a general description of your HHW when you arrive.
- Wait for City employees to unload the HHW from your vehicle.
- Do not transport materials in trash bags.

HHW Facility

1420 S. Robinson Dr.

Call 913-971-9311 for an appointment or schedule online at

OlatheKS.org/HHW.



WHAT TO EXPECT ON THE STREETS THIS WINTER

The City of Olathe Snow and Ice Operations Program provides snow removal services and material spreading as required to promote safe and efficient movement of traffic through the winter months. The goal is to have roads cleared and/or treated prior to peak traffic demands. Primary routes will always be prioritized.

Performance level goals include:

- Two to four inches snow, 100 percent of all primary, secondary, and residential routes cleared within 24 hours once the snow ends.
- Five to six inches snow, 100 percent of all primary, secondary, and residential routes

cleared within 48 hours once the snow ends.

This year due to increased COVID-19 safety precautions, staffing limitations might impact performance level goals. Information and updates will be posted at OlatheKS.org/Snow and on the City’s social media channels.





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 MAYOR'S CHILDREN'S Fund

Meeting Basic Needs

You Can Help Olathe's Most Vulnerable Residents

2020 goal: \$150,000 through Dec. 31

Visit OlatheCares.org

See the complete list of children's beneficiaries

Donate at OlatheCares.org, or send a check to:

Olathe Mayor's Children's Fund
City of Olathe, Mayor's Office
PO Box 768, Olathe, KS 66051

Letters to Santa

Make a list and check it twice, address it to Santa to show him you've been nice!

Drop letters in one of six mailboxes in Olathe. Each Thursday in December, Santa will read a few and post his video on the City's social media channels.

For locations and more information, visit OlatheKS.org/Santa.



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