

EARLY SPRING 2021



Olathe middle-schooler Owen's snow plow design is in action on City streets. He was the top winner in the annual design contest.

TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS BRING TEMPORARY SPRING AND SUMMER CLOSINGS



Lone Elm and Old 56 Highway Intersection

As part of the City's ongoing commitment to listening to resident priorities and improving traffic flow, a new continuous flow intersection—the first of its kind in Kansas and the Kansas City area—will be constructed at Lone Elm Road and Old 56 Highway to more efficiently move traffic in this busy, growing area. Old 56 Highway will close to through traffic at Lone Elm Road beginning in March 2021 for approximately 90 days.

Lone Elm Road north and southbound traffic flow will remain available through the Old 56 Highway intersection, but all turning movements at the intersection will be closed during construction.

Learn about the project's detours and how a continuous flow intersection works at OlatheKS.org/LoneElm.

119th Street and I-35 Interchange

Beginning as early as July 2021, the 119th Street bridge over I-35 will be closed to traffic for approximately 90 days to allow construction of the new interchange configuration. Right turn movements will remain available on both sides of the 119th Street bridge during that time. Closing the bridge will reduce the project's construction time nearly in half.

This spring, most of the construction is west of the interstate to create greater traffic capacity for 119th Street. Bridges over the BNSF railroad tracks will be widened, with the bulk of construction located beneath the bridges from Kansas City Road.

Sign up to receive traffic impact alerts at NotifyJoCo.org. More information about the interchange project and updates are available at OlatheKS.org/119.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Mayor's Message 2

- Call to Action:
Martin Luther King, Jr. Event 3

- Creating a Pipeline
for Olathe's Safe Future 4

- New Advanced Crisis
Intervention Team 5

- Library Customers Have Options 6

- Mahaffie Street Extension Opens 7

Visit OlatheKS.org and Click on **NEWS** for additional Olathe news.



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

You spoke, we listened, and we continue to listen to your priorities for Olathe City services. Traffic flow and its management, especially east-west travel, is still the highest priority City service residents want, according to citizen surveys. East-west travel can be challenging in Olathe. In addition to our continued growth, we have unique north-south obstacles, including I-35, K-7, and two major rail lines. The City of Olathe remains focused on traffic improvements with 29 transportation projects in the 2021-2025 Capital Improvements Plan.

Last fall, the **improved Santa Fe and Ridgeview intersection** opened to traffic, allowing greater capacity and efficiency for travel in that area. Previous citizen feedback told us this was the number one intersection needing improvement.

New Travel Connection Opens Under I-35

In early 2021, we completed **Mahaffie Street's extension** from just north of

WE CONTINUE MOVING FORWARD WITH TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

151st Street to Old 56 Highway. This new route crosses under I-35, providing a new north-south route from 151st Street to Old 56 Highway. In addition, it provides access to and from I-35. We are grateful to financial support for this project from Garmin and the Kansas Department of Transportation Economic Development Program.

Our work to **improve traffic flow around I-35 is in progress on 119th Street**. If you travel this area you know construction is underway to widen 119th Street west of the interstate. Please remember that beginning as early as this July, access to the bridge over I-35 will be closed for up to 90 days. Right turns will remain available on and off I-35 on both sides of the bridge. We know shutting down a bridge is a major inconvenience for many drivers, but without the closure the project's construction time would be twice as long.

We're also evaluating plans to improve capacity and safety along **Santa Fe from Ridgeview to Mur-Len, including the I-35 interchange**. This highly traveled corridor and interchange must accommodate ever-increasing traffic.

Olathe continues to partner with third-party data providers to analyze traffic signal data through our fiber optic network. Our traffic signal specialists use this information to identify fluctuations in traffic volumes, which allows traffic signal timing adjustments to **optimize travel times** throughout the city.

Looking ahead, another east-west route will potentially **connect 119th Street to K-7** in a few years. This project could extend 119th Street west as a four-lane street from Nelson to Woodland, spanning the railroad and Mill Creek.

Thank you for input to improve traffic flow and other City services for our community. We ask for your continued patience and support as we improve Olathe's most challenging traffic situations. As these projects progress, please let us know how we're doing. You can connect with us 24/7 at **OlatheKS.org/OlatheConnect**. Your feedback drives everything we do.

Sincerely,

John Bacon
Mayor

Past East-West Traffic Improvement Projects

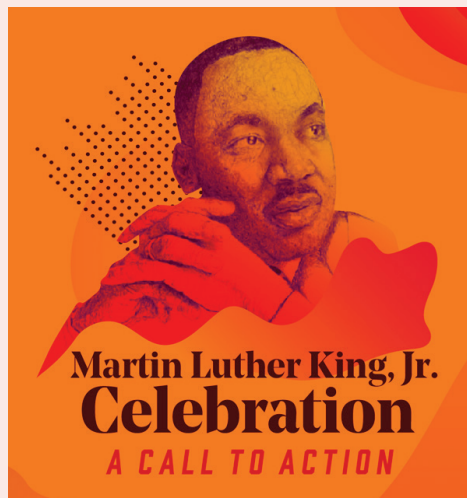
- College Boulevard improvements with bridge over railroad and Mill Creek
- 127th Street I-35 Overpass
- Raising the East Rails project—bridges over Ridgeview, Santa Fe, Park, and Loula Streets
- 159th Street Improvements
- Lone Elm Interchange at I-35



Celebrating the opening of the newly-extended Mahaffie Street, from left: Karin Brownlee, Olathe City Council; Tim McKee, Olathe Chamber of Commerce CEO; Ben Will, HNTB; Wes McCoy, Olathe City Council; Mark Holmes, Pyramid Contractors; Julie Lorenz, Kansas Secretary of Transportation; Brian Hash, HNTB; John Bacon, Olathe Mayor; Elizabeth Hughes, HNTB; Patrick Desbois, Garmin Executive VP; and Adam Mickelson, Olathe City Council.

2021 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. EVENT OBSERVES CALL TO ACTION

The 21st annual Martin Luther King, Jr. event on Jan. 17 recognized student contest winners, hosted music from the Olathe East High School Madrigals, and highlighted community work honoring the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. The 2021 event was presented virtually, with the theme “Call to Action,” referencing the inspiring words of King. The King event is an avenue for all ages, celebrating community efforts to quell bullying, discrimination, and mistreatment of others based on race, gender, or religious beliefs.



**“WE MUST USE
TIME CREATIVELY,
IN THE KNOWLEDGE
THAT THE TIME
IS ALWAYS RIPE
TO DO RIGHT.”**

Student Contest Winners

Best of Show

Skylar Saragusa

Olathe South High School,
for her essay:
The American Dream.

Middle School Visual Arts

Jackson Roller

Santa Fe Trail Middle School

Ellie Trachsel

Prairie Trail Middle School

Mrs. Davis & Mrs. Klusman’s Academic Extension Class

Prairie Trail Middle School

High School Visual Arts

Kutina Cabrera

Olathe North High School

Sarah Manuel

Olathe North High School

Tyler Phothirath

Olathe North High School

Middle School Writing

Coryn Jespersion

Prairie Trail Middle School

Ruth Brooks

Frontier Trail Middle School

Anna Ferguson

Frontier Trail Middle School

High School Writing

Skylar Saragusa

Olathe South High School

Kaitlyn Savoy

Olathe North High School

Riley Strait

Olathe North High School

Middle School Multimedia

Riley Lewis & Sadie Vo

Prairie Trail Middle School

Anjali George

Frontier Trail Middle School

Kylie Freemon

Frontier Trail Middle School

High School Multimedia

Jackson Brown

Olathe South High School

Gannon Wallace

Olathe South High School

McKenna Cowles & Liz Stoeck

Olathe South High School

The 2021 event was presented by the Olathe’s Human Relations Commission in partnership with the Olathe Public Schools, the Olathe Public Library, and presenting sponsor Garmin.

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

Wes McCoy
At-Large
913-269-1035
rwmccoy@olatheks.org

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

Kevin Gilmore
Ward 3
913-768-8285
kpgilmore@olatheks.org

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT AND SCHOOLS CREATE A PIPELINE FOR OLATHE’S SAFE FUTURE

The City of Olathe starts early in the lives of students to recruit the best people for critical public safety positions. Opportunities to learn about what goes into a safe community and a potential firefighter career are focus areas through the City and school district’s partnership, especially at the Public Safety Academy housed at Olathe West High School. The Academy also offers a pathway for law enforcement careers.

Olathe Fire Chief Jeff DeGraffenreid sees connecting with students and sharing the Fire Department’s important work as a tremendous path toward filling future jobs in public safety. It’s part of the Department’s strategic plan for maintaining a safe community.

“We want to continue to hire the best people for the work we do,” says DeGraffenreid.

This spring, students in the Public Safety Academy will be the first graduating class. Completing the Academy’s emergency and fire management curriculum means graduates will be in an advanced hiring position as they begin their careers.

“These students already know what’s involved in keeping our community safe and they will have completed their basic fire classes, medical and physical training,” says DeGraffenreid.

DeGraffenreid also points to the Academy’s benefit of reflecting the community while bringing diversity to the Fire Department.

Olathe Fire and Life Safety Programs for Students

- Preschool Firefighter Friendly
- Kindergarten Fire Station Visits
- Second Grade Fire Safety House Visits
- Third Grade Discover Fire and Life Safety Classes
- Third Grade Adopt-A-School Program
- Scouts Fire Explorer Program, Ages 14-20.
- Middle School Fire and Burn Prevention
- Middle and High School Hero Program
- Olathe West High School Public Safety Academy



Permanent Fire Station 8 is going up near W. 148th St. and Lakeshore Drive. It’s expected to be operational in late summer 2021 and house three firefighters, who also have emergency medical service certifications, and a fire truck. The new station will help meet the demands for response in Olathe’s growing southwest area and support the Fire Department’s mission to protect and preserve life and property. A temporary Station 8 is currently housed near Lake Olathe.



Olathe’s Fire Academy is expected to open in late spring 2021 at Layton Drive and Hedge Lane. This facility will provide an excellent local learning environment for Olathe first responders and additional training opportunities for Olathe Public Safety Academy students at Olathe West High School. In addition, firefighters from throughout the region are expected to receive training at the Olathe Fire Academy.



The City of Olathe is a StormReady Community, a designation earned through a National Weather Service partnership. As a Storm Ready Community, Olathe has plans and systems to handle all types of extreme weather—from tornadoes to winter storms.

The Storm Ready program encourages communities to enact new and proactive approaches for improving local hazardous weather operations. For example, Olathe has 40 outdoor storm warning sirens, covering all parts of the city. A modernization project is converting the sirens to solar power, with battery backups, reducing reliance on electric-powered sirens.

OLATHE POLICE DEPARTMENT WINS GRANT FOR NEW ADVANCED CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM

Olathe promotes an active, healthy community for residents in which mental health has a significant role. The Olathe Police Department is often one of the first points of contact for mental health crises. Unfortunately, these calls are increasing. In 2011, 400 Olathe Police Department calls were mental health related. By 2020, 1,800 of those calls required mental health intervention.

A new Advanced Crisis Intervention Team is helping address the growing need, building upon the partnership between the Olathe Police Department and the Johnson County Mental Health Center Co-Responder Program, started in 2011. The program provided a mental health professional accompanying police officers to mental health intervention calls. The new mobile team allocates funds to four Police positions, two Johnson County Mental Health Center co-responders, and vehicles. The new mobile positions will allow much faster response to a mental health crisis.

“The Co-Responder Program has proven successful from the beginning because it often directs people to the right mental health resources, rather than sending them to a hospital emergency room,” says Olathe Police Chief Mike Butaud. “We’re constantly looking for innovative ways to serve our community.”

Olathe received a U.S. Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant for the new Advanced Crisis Intervention Team unit with funding started in January 2021. The Olathe Police Department was the only Kansas agency awarded the grant among 1,100 nationwide applicants.



NEW DINING OPTIONS COMING SOON



TORCHY'S TACOS

Torchy's Tacos is remodeling the building at 11919 S. Strang Line Rd., previously occupied by Burger King in the Olathe Station shopping center. The restaurant is based out of Austin, Texas and the Olathe location will be one of the first in the Kansas City Metro area.



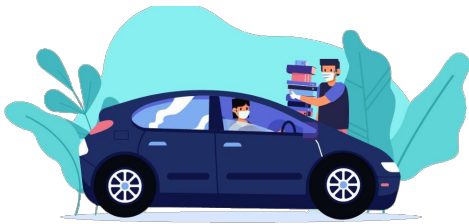
EL MAVIRI

El Maviri Seafood Bar & Grill is renovating the building previously occupied by Sheridan's Frozen Custard at 2055 E. Santa Fe St., near Santa Fe and Mur-Len Road. This is a local small business and the first location for the restaurant.



LITTLE CAESARS PIZZA

Little Caesars Pizza has returned to Olathe. The carry-out restaurant recently opened at 904 E. Santa Fe St.



LIBRARY CUSTOMERS HAVE OPTIONS FOR MATERIAL PICK-UPS

The Olathe Public Library offers curbside pick-up services as part of COVID-19 safety precautions. At both locations, customers can use curbside pick-up for holds and OPL kits. Additionally, 3D prints can be ordered online and picked up at the Indian Creek Library.

Customers can continue to place holds for library materials in-person, over the phone or through the catalog on the library website. When placing holds online for curbside pick-up, please select "Olathe – Indian Creek Curbside" for the Indian Creek Library at 16100 W. 135th St. or "Olathe – Downtown" for the Olathe Library Temporary Location at 1078A W. Santa Fe. Once you receive the notice that your hold is available, you have 10 days to pick up your items.

When you arrive at the library for pick-up, follow the instructions for contacting staff posted for curbside pick-up. If you would like to pick up an OPL kit or 3D print, please let staff know at this time. Library staff will bring the items to your car. Please have your trunk or window open for contactless pick-up.

Read more about curbside pick-up at OlatheLibrary.org/Curbside



NEW IN DIGITAL SERVICES

Recent website enhancements support the City of Olathe's exceptional customer services goal of taking customer experience and service delivery to the next level of excellence. Check out recent improvements:

OlatheKS.org/Permits

Using the licenses and permits pages is now easier than ever, including digital residential permit applications and new pages with more in-depth information.

OlatheKS.org/Station8 and OlatheKS.org/FireAcademy

Curious to learn more about the new fire station and fire academy? Find information quickly about Olathe Fire Station No. 8 and the Fire Academy – two public safety projects now under construction.

OLATHE WATER TREATMENT PLANT RECEIVES BEST PROJECT AWARD

Upgrades to Olathe's Water Treatment Plant received the 2020 Best Public Works/Environmental Project Award from the Associated Builders and Contractors Heart of America Chapter, (\$10 million+ project).

In 2018, improvements began to rehabilitate critical plant infrastructure and ensure continued reliable plant operation for customers in the future. Approximately \$17 million in improvements include:

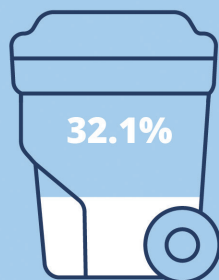
- New lime feed silos, equipment and storage
- Equipment replacement for two treatment basins and repairs for third basin
- Water storage tank replacement
- New chlorine dioxide disinfection facilities.

The Water Treatment Plant was built in 1964 and was previously upgraded in 2006.

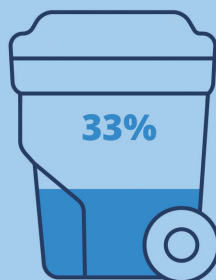
It provides drinking water to approximately 135,000 residents in Olathe and surrounding areas. The City of Olathe takes pride in providing high quality water to all customers.



2020 Waste Diversion Rates



National Average



Kansas City Metro



Olathe

Olathe residents' once again exceeded the Kansas City regional average and the national average for diverting waste from the landfill. The waste diversion rate is calculated based on diverted residential recycled material and yard waste.



MAHAFFIE STREET PROJECT DELIVERS IMPROVED TRAFFIC FLOW

The newly extended Mahaffie Street is providing another way to cross I-35 while helping reduce traffic congestion on 151st Street, the 151st Street/I-35/U.S.-169 Highway interchange, and surrounding neighborhoods. Mahaffie Street extends under I-35 and north to Old 56 Highway and Church Street, and provides access to and from the interstate highway. The street previously ended just north of 151st Street.

The \$14,800,000 project cost includes design, utility relocations, land acquisition, construction, inspection, and staff time. Funding for the project included \$7 million from the Kansas Department of Transportation Economic Development Program and additional support from Garmin International.

In 2017, residents asked for traffic flow improvements in the 151st Street and Ridgeview area at a public meeting for the Garmin expansion.

The new Mahaffie Street project includes curbs and gutters, storm sewers, streetlights, and sidewalks.



Traffic flows freely under I-35 on the new Mahaffie Street extension. The completed project provides alternative access to and from the 151st corridor, the I-35 interchange and surrounding neighborhoods.

DEVICES HELP COORDINATE TRAFFIC SIGNALS DURING ROAD CONSTRUCTION



Olathe Traffic Operations Center staff can remotely monitor and adjust traffic signal timing at most intersections.

Most Olathe street intersections are equipped with wire conductive loops that detect vehicles stopped at intersections, and in turn trigger traffic signal light changes. These detection loops are located several inches below the pavement.

When construction occurs at or near an intersection, loops are usually disrupted and vehicle detection is lost. In such circumstances Olathe Traffic Operations can install an aerial device on traffic signal masts as another way of detecting vehicles. Usually installed at the busiest intersections, this device uses digital radar waves to detect the presence of vehicles in multiple lanes. One of these is currently installed at the 119th Street and Renner Road intersection, an area now under construction. The detection device can be used alone or in combination with traffic cameras at street intersections.

Modifying traffic signal timings from the Traffic Operations Center is another possible option to smooth traffic flow during construction.

Questions about traffic signals can be directed to the Olathe Traffic Operations Center, 913-971-5180. Traffic operators are available 6:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. Or, ask a question or report an issue 24/7 at [OlatheKS.org/OlatheConnect](https://www.olatheks.org/OlatheConnect).

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 **OLATHE**
TrashDay

Check Mahaffie.org for upcoming events and programs.

Don't miss **Spring on the Farm** on April 24.



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

   /mahaffiefarm

