



Olathe Live! at Stagecoach Park



## PROJECTS ADDRESS RESIDENTS' TOP PRIORITY — TRAFFIC FLOW IMPROVEMENTS

### 119TH STREET AND I-35 INTERCHANGE

Construction is progressing on an improved 119th Street and I-35 Interchange. The temporary 119th Street bridge closing over I-35 is allowing work for a diverging diamond reconfiguration. Right turn movements remain available on both sides of the 119th Street bridge. The bridge is expected to reopen by Sept. 1, 2021.

This new interchange design will reduce the potential for collisions because of fewer conflict points and will better move high traffic volumes for reduced congestion.

In addition to the new diverging diamond interchange, the project adds more travel lanes on 119th Street and turn lanes on the I-35 exit ramps. The entire project's completion is expected by the end of 2021.

Visit [OlatheKS.org/119](http://OlatheKS.org/119) to find more project and detour information.

### OLD 56 HIGHWAY AND LONE ELM INTERSECTION

The intersection of Old 56 Highway and Lone Elm Road reopened to traffic in early June 2021. To better move growing traffic volumes, improvements include continuous flow left-turn lanes eastbound and westbound from Old 56 Highway to Lone Elm Road.

This moves 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.

These will be the first continuous flow turn lanes and intersection of this type in the state of Kansas.

For more project information and to see how to drive a continuous flow intersection, visit [OlatheKS.org/LoneElm](http://OlatheKS.org/LoneElm).

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Mayor's Message 2

---

- Streetlights Get Smarter 3

---

- Olathe Live! Performances Return to Stagecoach Park 4

---

- What's Being Built in Olathe 5

---

- New Locations for Drop-off Recycling Containers 6

---

- Police Department Low Rider Debuts 7

---

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



## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

The COVID-19 pandemic changed and disrupted many aspects of our lives including decreased physical activity for many people. Roughly 22 percent of adults report weight gain up to 10 pounds during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a study published by the National Institute of Health. Many children experienced less physical activity, along with reduced opportunities for athletics and increased screen time.

If you or your family let healthy habits slip, now is the time to resume a healthier path by finding your Olathe Active. The Olathe Community Center is fully open to continue



## OLATHE PARKS & RECREATION IS READY FOR YOU

your fitness path or begin one. As a result of the pandemic, we started the popular Fitness On Demand online classes with Community Center memberships. We will continue offering that option.

New Community Center memberships come with a Splash Pass, which provides unlimited admission in 2021 to Black Bob Bay, Mill Creek, or Oregon Trail Pools. We're bringing back Teen Splash at Black Bob Bay on Aug. 5. This event is free to students entering sixth to ninth grades.

You can also cool off at Lake Olathe's spray ground, beach, and Aqua Park—all open this summer. If you haven't tried taking a kayak,

canoe, or paddleboat on the lake, I highly recommend it. Lake Olathe offers many other activities for all ages, such as the nature play area, disc golf, fishing, and four miles of paved trails.


Our beautiful historic site, Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm, is again offering free Family Fun Nights every Thursday through July. Plus, the outstanding 1860s style fireworks display, the Olathe Civic Band, and other activities return July 8.

An exciting lineup of Olathe Live! performances has returned to Stagecoach Park, providing one of summer's favorite past times. Don't forget our rental venues, the Heritage Center at Mahaffie, Eagles Landing, and Olathe Community Center, are available for gatherings and celebrations.

Developing and maintaining places and programs that encourage active lifestyles for all ages is one of our important community strategies to maintain a high quality of life. That's why it was important for us to continue offering many of these services throughout the pandemic. This year, we're excited to have even more facilities and recreation programs open. I hope to see you at one of our park facilities soon.

Find your Olathe Active at [OlatheKS.org/ParksRec](https://www.OlatheKS.org/ParksRec)

Sincerely,

  
John Bacon  
Mayor



## NEW LOOK PLANNED FOR BRIDGE AT 119TH STREET AND I-35

The 119th Street and I-35 Interchange area will not only appear differently, it's designed to bring safety, congestion, and travel time improvements for the area. The diverging diamond interchange will allow free-flowing turns when drivers enter and exit I-35. The configuration eliminates left turns against oncoming traffic and limits the number of traffic signal phases.



## TECHNOLOGY MAKING OLATHE STREETLIGHTS SMARTER

This spring, Olathe Traffic Operations began installing new cellular nodes on streetlights, making them work “smarter” in several ways.

**Smart streetlights provide immediate notification of individual streetlight outages and decrease repair time.**

Currently, traffic operations staff rely heavily on the public's reports of outages. This will provide greater efficiency and cost

savings for streetlight maintenance. There is no need to check the Traffic Operations control cabinet box in the field to identify the non-working light.

**Remote dimming or darkening of non-essential lights is possible when elective conservation is needed.**

**The technology provides base communication to individual streetlights,** which can provide

supplemental applications in the future, such as traffic counts.

The first “smart” nodes are on downtown streetlights along Park and Cherry Streets and around the parking garage. In addition to the increased efficiencies for maintenance, remote streetlight dimming will be possible in the downtown area for special events, such as Fourth Fridays and Johnson County Old Settlers.

## TEMPORARY STREET MEDIANS INSTALLED TO SLOW TRAFFIC

New temporary street medians are now in the Forest View residential neighborhood to slow traffic in areas experiencing speeding vehicles, as well as to provide a refuge for pedestrians at marked crosswalks to assist in crossing the street. The medians, made of durable rubberized material, are located:

- On Canyon Drive, near Forest View Elementary School

- On 125th Street, between 124th Court and Gleason.

The medians are a traffic calming pilot project to be evaluated for effectiveness in the coming months. They are located along the streets' centerline, narrowing the travel lanes at their locations.

## IMPORTANT CITY PHONE NUMBERS

Regular Business Hours: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

[OlatheKS.org/ServicesDirectory](http://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



## OLATHE LIVE! PERFORMANCES RETURN TO STAGECOACH PARK

1205 E. Kansas City Rd.

**July 9 | 7 PM** The Cars with Synchronicity

**July 16 | 7 PM** Liverpool with Vinyl Revival

**July 30 | 7 PM** Danielle Nicole with Brandon Miller

All shows are free. Guests can bring blankets, lawn chairs, food, and non-alcoholic beverages.

Thanks to presenting sponsor Xfinity, as well as Olathe Communities That Care, Olathe Health, Olathe Ford Lincoln, and HyVee on 151st Street.

## OLATHE EARNS SECOND LEADING THE WAY AWARD



The City of Olathe has earned its second consecutive ETC Institute Leading the Way Award, which recognizes local governments for outstanding achievement in the delivery of services to residents. Olathe is the first city to win the award twice.

Recipients of the award rank in the top 10 percent of all cities and counties in the United States on their composite performance in three core areas assessed on the DirectionFinder® citizen satisfaction survey:

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

“2020 was an extremely challenging year for everyone, including our residents and employees. We could not be prouder of the work City of Olathe employees have done over the past year to continue to set the standard for excellence in public service,” said City Manager Michael Wilkes. “We’re honored to win the Leading the Way Award once again and to be the first city to win the award twice.”

The City of Olathe’s composite rating was 254 which was 100 points above the average composite score of 154 for all cities in the United States.

## OLATHE RANKS AMONG TOP CITIES FOR SUCCESSFUL WOMEN

The City of Olathe is ranked the No. 12 city in the nation where women are most successful according to financial technology website SmartAsset.com.

To create their rankings, SmartAsset.com compared the 200 largest cities in the country across the following metrics:

- Percentage of women with a bachelor’s degree
- Median earnings for full-time working women

- Percentage of business owners who are women
- Housing costs as a percentage of women’s earnings
- Percentage of full-time working women earning at least \$75,000 per year.

Visit [SmartAsset.com](https://www.smartasset.com) to view the full rankings and learn more about the study.



OLATHE  
KANSAS



Happy  
4<sup>th</sup> of  
July



### FIREWORKS SHOW

Sunday, July 4 | 9:30 PM

College Boulevard Activity Center

11031 South Valley Parkway

[OLATHEKS.ORG/REDWHITEBLUE](https://www.olatheks.org/redwhiteblue)

## WHAT'S BEING BUILT IN OLATHE



### DOWNTOWN LIBRARY GROUNDBREAKING IN JULY

The Olathe Public Library's new downtown location will be built behind Civic Center Park near the intersection of Santa Fe and Chestnut Streets. In addition to core library services, the 36,900 square-foot building will have a café, a large multi-use room, a creative space, numerous meeting and study rooms, and a local history area. The library will extend beyond its walls with several inviting outdoor spaces, such as a park, story steps, an amphitheater, and an outdoor terrace.

Groundbreaking is expected in July 2021 with an opening projected for fall of 2022. The temporary downtown library location is at 1078A W. Santa Fe.



### KCAS BIOANALYTICS COMING TO KANSAS BIOSCIENCE PARK

Construction plans for KCAS Bioanalytical and Biomarker Services were recently approved. The 68,000 square foot bioanalytical laboratory and office facility will be located in the Kansas Bioscience Park, on Clay Blair Road near College Boulevard..

This growing company focuses on bioanalytical and biomarker analysis for the pharmaceutical, biotech, and animal health markets.

The cutting-edge facility will accommodate approximately 280 scientists, administrative support staff, and executives. Construction is expected to begin in the summer of 2021.

# Public Recycling Containers Have New Locations

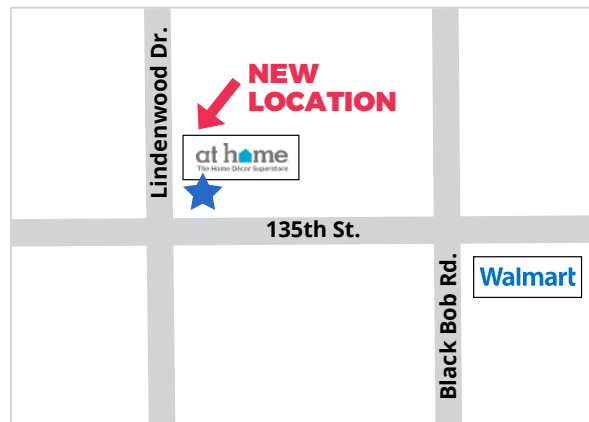
Items accepted:  
Cardboard  
Chipboard  
Glass

## NEW LOCATIONS

**Downtown Parking Lot**  
Kansas Ave. & Loula St.



**At Home**  
2000 E. Santa Fe



## WATER QUALITY REPORT AVAILABLE



The City of Olathe continues meeting or exceeding all federal and state water quality standards. Following production and treatment, certified laboratory staff performs 90,000 tests annually to ensure quality before it is pumped to Olathe homes and businesses. The report demonstrates transparency as a utility and guarantees the quality and safety of the drinking water.

Check out the report at [OlatheKS.org/WaterQuality](https://OlatheKS.org/WaterQuality).



Olathe's untreated source water is obtained from wells located along the Kansas River near DeSoto.



## POLICE DEPARTMENT LOWRIDER CAR GETS HIGH MARKS

On May 1, 2021, the Olathe Police Department lowrider debuted at the Olathe West High School Car Show. The custom student-made and community-supported vehicle was an immediate hit.

“We’re already received requests to bring the car for showings,” says Olathe Police Sergeant Joel Yeldell. The Olathe lowrider will be available for viewing at Police outreach events this summer and at Olathe Live! performances, says Yeldell.

Lowrider cars are typically American-made cars from the 1930s to 1990s. Their two core components are hydraulics that lift the body from the frame and ornate paint jobs. Bicycles and motorcycles can also be lowriders.

How did the Olathe Police lowrider come about? When Erik Erazo was growing up in the San Francisco area, one of his favorite memories is walking to the store with his mom and seeing the lowrider cars. He saw a City of Oakland lowrider police car and thought it was especially cool.

Fast forward to Olathe where Erazo is the coordinator of diversity and engagement for Olathe Public Schools. He was instrumental in starting the Olathe Leadership Lowrider Bike Club at Olathe North High School. In 2017, students worked on a lowrider bike and presented it to the Olathe Police Department. That year, there was a 100 percent student graduation rate for members participating in the Leadership Club. The project was so successful Erazo pitched the idea

of a lowrider police car to former Olathe Police Chief Steve Menke.

“This would be an opportunity for the kids to take their skills to the next level and have a relationship with the Police Department,” says Erazo.

Soon after the idea advanced. The Police Department provided a Ford Crown Victoria scheduled for rotation out of the City fleet. The Crown Vic’s transformation involved about 50 students in the auto collision class at the Olathe Advanced Technical Center. This vehicle required specialty painting and paint. Aaron Muñoz, 1 of a Kind Paint & Body, Kansas City, Mo., volunteered his expertise, working with instructors and students. About 90 percent of the Police lowrider’s transformation costs, including community mentors and vehicle parts, were provided by sponsors.

Erazo says it took several years to finish the lowrider. With the May 1 car show deadline approaching, Olathe North High School student Oswaldo Polanco, a Leadership Club member and part of the auto collision program, worked long hours to get the lowrider car show ready.

### SEE THE POLICE LOWRIDER

- 8:30-10 p.m., July 13:** Glow Golf at Black Bob Mini Golf
- 10-12 p.m., July 28:** Bowling at Main Event
- 10-11:30 a.m., Aug. 10:** Chillin’ with the Cops- Kona Ice at Two Trails Park

**Special Thanks to:** Olathe Public Schools Foundation, Olathe Police Foundation, Galaxy Wire Wheels, Hoppo’s, Sparkburn, M-C Fabrication, Inc., 1 of a Kind, Diamonds Over Metal, Kevin Conner, James M. Storms, Susan Wiley, Mark Haas, Haley Prophet, Aaron Muñoz, Scripps Howard Foundation-41 Action News, Bill’s Auto Paint and Supply, Inc., Everlasting Sign, The Tint Guy, Low Rence Cruisers

# 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](http://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.**

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 323  
Olathe, KS

CONNECT WITH US



Apps available on the App Store and Google Play




**OLATHE** CONNECT **OLATHE** TrashDay

Check [Mahaffie.org](http://Mahaffie.org) for upcoming events and programs.

**Family Fun Nights** every Thursday through July are **FREE\*!**



1200 E. Kansas City Rd.  
Olathe, KS 66061  
phone: 913-971-5111  
web: [Mahaffie.org](http://Mahaffie.org)

   /mahaffiefarm

\*Made possible by the Mahaffie Foundation.

