

## WINTER 2022



Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm horses from left Burt, Chip, and Ace

### YOUR 2022 OLATHE BUDGET AT WORK

Your 2022 City of Olathe budget reflects priority-based decisions and is focused on long-term strategies to keep Olathe future-ready. The approved operating budget and 2022-2026 Capital Improvement Plan support resident priorities, contributing to Olathe’s place as one of the nation’s best cities.

Olathe staff is committed to maintaining highly-rated services and producing

great value for public tax dollars. The City of Olathe has one of the nation’s highest resident satisfaction rates for the overall quality of city services, 94 percent, according to the 2020 DirectionFinder® citizen survey.

The 2022 budget continues funding residents’ highest priorities, such as traffic management, maintenance of City streets, and public safety.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Mayor’s Message 2

---

- City Council Election Results 2

---

- Cathedral Builder Award Honors Former Mayor Copeland 3

---

- What’s Being Built in Olathe 5

---

- #snolathe Young Artists Plow Blade Art 6

---

- #snolathe Snow Removal for Safety 7

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

### Olathe Residents’ Satisfaction



**94%** citizen satisfaction rate with the overall quality of City services



**90%** Citizen satisfaction rate with overall feeling of safety



**95%** Citizen satisfaction rate with Police, Fire, emergency medical services

DirectionFinder® 2020 Results

More budget highlights on pages 4 and 5



## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

### 2022 BUDGET SUPPORTS A FUTURE-READY OLATHE

Establishing the City of Olathe budget is one of your Councilmembers' most important roles as elected officials. Although much larger, we can think of the City's budget similar to a household budget. We ask many

of the same questions you do at home. Do we have a firm foundation upon which we can build? Can we withstand economic unknowns, like a pandemic? Have we set aside money for regular maintenance of our assets?

Like our household budgets, the City budget determines everyday experiences. It keeps water flowing to households and businesses, provides safe streets and traffic control, and ensures public safety services. Of course, these are only some of the essential services. Our City budget also focuses on quality of life amenities that make Olathe a desirable place to live and do business.

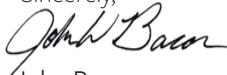
We approved the City of Olathe's 2022 budget this fall with residents' priorities in mind — public safety, traffic improvements, and maintenance of City facilities and streets. Just like you, the City can't accomplish every project in the short term. We strategically plan to allocate funds in a fiscally responsible manner. After all, we are stewards of your money and today's budget determines our City's future services.

The City of Olathe's budgeting and financial approach is producing:

- Resident satisfaction for City services that leads the nation.
- Highly rated bonds that yield lower interest rates for capital projects.
- Value for tax dollars, standing head and shoulders above national and regional satisfaction averages.
- The third lowest mill rate of any first-class city in Kansas.

I invite you to look over the budget highlights in this newsletter. If you have any questions, please contact us at **OlatheKS.org/OlatheConnect**.

Your input is important. Working together, we'll continue responsible budgeting for excellent public services and ensure we create a future-ready Olathe.

Sincerely,  
  
John Bacon  
Mayor

## CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS - NOVEMBER 2



### Kevin Gilmore At-Large

Councilmember Kevin Gilmore has been on the City Council since he was appointed to Ward 3 in 2020.

He has served on the USD 233 Board of Education, past president; the Kansas State Board of Education, past chairman; the Olathe Chamber of Commerce Board, past president; and several City of Olathe advisory boards and committees. He is a member of the Olathe Santa Fe Trail Rotary Club.

Councilmember Gilmore and his wife, Julie, have three sons and four grandchildren.



### LeEtta Felter Ward 3

Councilmember-Elect LeEtta Felter will begin her first term on the City Council on Jan. 4.

She serves on the USD 233 Board of Education, the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund Board, the Johnson County Suicide Prevention Coalition, and other community organizations. She founded Masks of Mercy in 2020 for which she received the Cathedral Builder Award.

She and her husband, Jib, have four children.



### Marge Vogt Ward 4

Councilmember Marge Vogt was reelected to her ninth term representing Ward 4.

She serves on the Mid America Regional Council; past chair; and the National Association of Regional Councils; past president. Other service includes the State Board of Nurse Examiners, Olathe Transportation Committee, Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm Foundation Board, and the Johnson County Transportation Coordination Council.

She had her husband, Tom, have two sons, two grandchildren, with a third grandchild on the way.

# CATHEDRAL BUILDER AWARD HONORS FORMER MAYOR COPELAND



a great city,” says Mayor Bacon. “He believed in Olathe more than anyone else. He recognized we aren’t just laying bricks. We’re building a beautiful community that will be here for generations to come.”

Mayor Copeland passed away in 2020 during his tenure as Olathe’s longest serving mayor. He led the City of Olathe through unprecedented growth and championed many projects to enhance Olathe’s quality of life.

The Cathedral Builder Award was among his legacies. For 10 years he recognized individuals – business leaders, faith leaders, educators, and volunteers – whose service, vision, and lasting contributions created a great city. Thank you Mayor Copeland!



Mayor Bacon presents the Olathe Cathedral Builder Award honoring former Mayor Michael Copeland to Maria Copeland.

Mayor John Bacon honored former Mayor Michael Copeland with the Cathedral Builder Award at the 2021 State of the City event. Mayor Bacon presented the posthumous award to Copeland’s wife, Maria, who accepted it on behalf of the Copeland family.

“It is my honor and privilege to present the Cathedral Builder Award to the person who personified what it means to care about and build

## 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](mailto:jbacon@olatheks.org)

**Wes McCoy**  
 At-Large  
 913-269-1035  
[rwmccoy@olatheks.org](mailto:rwmccoy@olatheks.org)

**Karin Brownlee**  
 At-Large  
 913-484-3255  
[kbrownlee@olatheks.org](mailto:kbrownlee@olatheks.org)

**Larry Campbell**  
 Ward 1  
 Mayor Pro Tem  
 913-488-7278  
[lcampbell@olatheks.org](mailto:lcampbell@olatheks.org)

**Adam Mickelson**  
 Ward 2  
 913-538-1197  
[amickelson@olatheks.org](mailto:amickelson@olatheks.org)

**Kevin Gilmore**  
 Ward 3  
 913-768-8285  
[kpgilmore@olatheks.org](mailto:kpgilmore@olatheks.org)

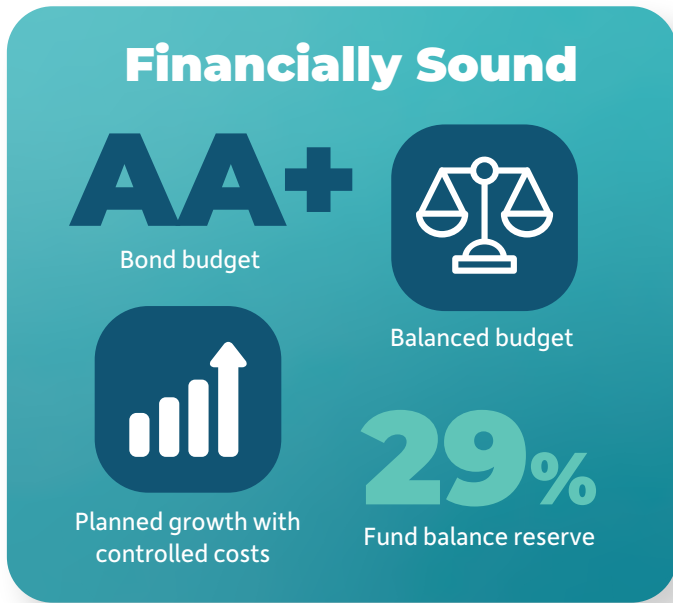
**Marge Vogt**  
 Ward 4  
 913-269-0625  
[mvogt@olatheks.org](mailto:mvogt@olatheks.org)

# YOUR 2022 CITY OF OLATHE BUDGET

The Budget and Capital Improvement Plan reflect community priorities.

## Efficient and Effective Measures

Providing City services efficiently and effectively is central to the 2022 Olathe budget. In 2022, the Olathe Fire Department will add another squad unit for emergency response during peak response times. Squads, comprised of a firefighter and a paramedic, increase efficiency and cost-effectiveness for meeting the growing demands for medical calls.



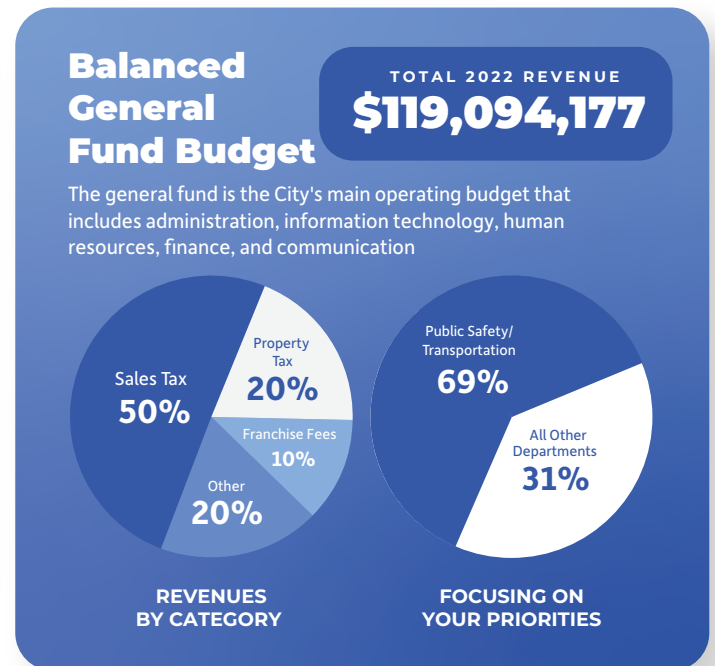
Continued investments in street preservation provide future cost savings and effectively increase the lifespan of Olathe’s street network. In 2022, approximately 64 lane miles of mill and overlay and 70 lane miles of surface treatment are planned to maintain streets.

Leveraging outside funding sources to take dollars farther produces more benefits for Olatheans. Successful grant awards help fund projects, such as the \$10 million federal grant for the 119th Street and I-35 Interchange project. Johnson County assists funding by contributing \$6.9 million for street improvements through the County Assisted Road System and \$11.7 million for stormwater projects for 2022-2026 capital projects.

Olathe has an eye for the future by preparing for economic unknowns. The City Council has set the goal of maintaining 30 percent of revenues as reserves to ensure financial stability. Olathe’s mill levy remains stable for 2022, demanding efficiency in allocating budget resources.

## How Funds are Used

Most of the general fund supports the employees who provide City services – the police officers, firefighters, parks and recreation staff, accountants, street crews, IT staff, and many others. It also includes tools to increase job performance such as computers, software, and continuous training and development. Plus, it funds heating and cooling of public



safety facilities and fuel for police cars and fire trucks. Olathe champions employee health and is consistently recognized for its wellness programs.

## Individual Funds Track Other Services

In addition to the general fund, the budget has other funds accounting for separate activities, including the stormwater fund, solid waste fund, and water and sewer fund. Modest residential fee increases are included for 2022 to avoid larger future increases: 2 percent for stormwater and solid waste, 4.9 percent for sewer, and 4.3 percent for water. Olathe utilities fees continue to be some of the lowest in Johnson County.

## WHAT'S BEING BUILT IN OLATHE

### NEW HORIZON ACADEMY

New Horizon Academy, based out of Minnesota, is bringing its early education and childcare program to the shops near Hy-Vee, 151st Street and Black Bob Road. There will be 11 classrooms in the new 13,853 square foot building. New Horizon Academy will begin construction in early 2022 and anticipates opening by fall 2022.



### GARMIN INVESTS FURTHER IN OLATHE

Garmin has purchased 193 acres at the northwest corner of 151st Street, Interstate 35 and Highway 169 in Olathe. The acquisition includes a large parcel that previously housed the Great Mall of the Great Plains. Mayor John Bacon made the announcement about Garmin's investment at the 2021 State of the City event.

"This land acquisition gives us the ability to grow our facilities and workforce in the City of Olathe and the State of Kansas for decades to come," says Garmin CEO Cliff Pemble.

Garmin currently employs more than 4,300 people in Olathe and 18,000 globally.



### MAHAFFIE WINS HUMANITIES KANSAS GRANT

Humanities Kansas recently awarded Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm Historic Site a \$12,025 Sustaining the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan (SHARP) Recovery Grant. The grant funds will be used to renovate and upgrade exhibits and the visitor orientation film in the Mahaffie Heritage Center.

The SHARP Recovery Grants support Kansas cultural organizations that provide humanities programming. Humanities Kansas awarded 121 SHARP grants statewide, made available through the National Endowment for the Humanities to assist cultural institutions affected by the coronavirus as part of the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act.

Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm was originally established on the Santa Fe Trail in 1858 and the stone farmhouse that still stands was built in 1865. Mahaffie

is the only remaining stagecoach stop on the Santa Fe Trail preserved as a public museum.



## Capital Projects

Olathe's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is a five-year planning and fiscal management tool that identifies available project funding and a timeline. Improved streets, a new state-of-the-art downtown Olathe Public Library, trails, and improved Police and Fire Department facilities are among the projects in the CIP, approved during the budget process.

### 2022 Capital Improvement Plan (5-year Plan)

**\$146,610,954**  
allocated in 2022

### CIP Highlights

**119th and Woodland** – Will improve east-west traffic flow by adding a four lane divided street from Woodland to Nelson Road with a sidewalk and sidepath, storm sewers and a bridge spanning Mill Creek and the BNSF Railroad

**Pflumm Road, 143rd to 151st** – Will address capacity and safety concerns by increasing Pflumm to a four lane divided street with sidewalks, bike lanes, and curb and gutter

**Prairie Center Park Improvements** – Will add a secondary entrance to Hedge Lane, parking lot improvements, new playscapes, and field reconfigurations

### Other notable improvement projects include:

- Black Bob Road improvements, 159th Street to 167th Street
- 167th and Ridgeview Road improvements
- Police Building expansion, phase 2
- Santa Fe Street, preliminary engineering for Ridgeview to Mur-Len improvements
- Water and sanitary sewer line rehabilitation

Visit [OlatheKS.org/Budget](https://www.OlatheKS.org/Budget) for more information about the 2022 budget and 2022-2026 Capital Improvement Plan.

# #snolathe



## LOOK FOR THE NEWEST SNOWPLOW DESIGNS ON OLATHE STREETS

Congratulations Eli and Ellory for being selected as this year's featured #snolathe plow blade artists. Thank you to everyone who submitted creative plow blade artwork for the 2021-2022 season.



Eli and his siblings painted his design that displays a snowman shoveling snow down the road.



Ellory's classmates at Clearwater Creek Elementary helped paint her colorful plow blade design.

## SAFETY IS OLATHE'S SNOW REMOVAL FOCUS

When winter weather arrives, crews first work to treat and remove ice and snow on the main roads to ensure emergency responders can reach all areas of Olathe. Then they move to residential streets and cul-de-sacs. This is an enormous job with 1,311 lane miles and 1,428 cul-de-sacs plowed during each snow event.

### You can help crews with snow removal by:

Parking vehicles in the driveway, if possible, making sure no part of the vehicle extends into the street.

Shoveling the sidewalk adjacent to your property.

Avoid shoveling driveway snow into the street. Instead, shovel snow to the downstreet side (downstreet is the direction traffic flows past your driveway) to minimize snow buildup at the bottom of the driveway.



### Meet the Snow Team

Do you want to learn about the people who plow Olathe's streets? Find the team roster at [OlatheKS.org/Snolathe](https://OlatheKS.org/Snolathe).

This web page also provides a live snowplow tracking map during winter weather events and more about #snolathe operations.

## PREVENT FROZEN PIPES

When the outside temperatures dip to 20°F and lower, be aware of the possibility of frozen pipes. Most at-risk areas are pipes located against your home's outside walls and in unheated spaces, such as a garage.

### Prevention Tips

Open cabinet doors that lead to exposed pipes to allow circulation of warmer household air.

Let water run in a very slow drip from a faucet farthest away from the water's entrance to the house.

Keep garage doors closed. Plumbing routed through unheated space leaves it vulnerable to cold air.

Install pipe insulation products to exposed pipes, such as a "pipe sleeve," or UL-listed "heat tape," "heat cable," or similar products.

Set your thermostat above 65°F when away from your home or business for several days.

### My Pipes Froze. Now What?

Safely thaw the pipes as soon as possible or call a plumber.

If you're thawing the pipes, shut off the water. Know where your master water shut off is *before* an emergency and the need to thaw pipes.

Starting near the faucet end, slowly apply heat with the faucet open and work toward the coldest section. Slower is better.

A hair dryer is appropriate for the job. Not a blow torch. To avoid electrocution, don't use electrical appliances while standing in water.

Check other faucets around your home for additional frozen pipes.

*For more information, please contact a licensed plumber.*



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.**

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

CONNECT WITH US



Apps available on the App Store and Google Play



## REGISTER YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD TODAY!



*Downtown Olathe Connect neighborhood Chiefs watch party*



*Bradford Falls neighborhood food truck event*

Are you looking for a way to build up your community and get to know your neighbors better? Registered neighborhoods are eligible to apply for available neighborhood grant funding to help connect neighbors and enhance their communities. Grants can be used for a block party or event, starting a community garden, a neighborhood cleanup, and more!  
Registering your neighborhood also ensures



that you and your neighbors stay up to date and informed, providing opportunities to connect and comment on important projects that may affect your neighborhood.  
Visit [OlatheKS.org/HealthyNeighborhoods](http://OlatheKS.org/HealthyNeighborhoods) or contact the Planning Division at 913-971-8750 for more information and to register your neighborhood today!