

## EARLY AUTUMN 2022



Photo: Johnson County Old Settlers, Downtown Olathe, by City of Olathe Housing Coordinator David Parnell



Photo: City of Olathe Horticulturist Supervisor John Brockus captured Lake Olathe Park in the early morning.

Lake Olathe Park's redevelopment shines as one of the Olathe Parks and Recreation Master Plan's successes. What will the next 10 years bring for parks and recreation programs? An update to the master plan is underway. Learn more on page 6.

### EMPLOYEES CAPTURE BEAUTIFUL OLATHE IMAGES

You'll find in this *Olathe Link* several City of Olathe employee photos from an internal photo competition. The competition celebrated the Olathe Historical Society's Emmy Award-winning docuseries *Olathe: The City Beautiful*.

Visit [OlatheHistoricalSociety.org](https://OlatheHistoricalSociety.org) to learn more about the series. Look for more employee photos in future issues.

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





## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Progress on Olathe's street system doesn't happen by accident. It takes planning, hard work, and commitment. Street improvements can be inconvenient, but when we see orange cones around Olathe they indicate our community is moving forward. The City of Olathe continues to address residents' highest priorities — traffic flow and its management, and street maintenance. Here are a few updates on transportation improvements and street preservation projects.

Work is underway on **Pflumm Road from 143rd to 151st Street**. Construction will improve this section to a four-lane, divided arterial roadway. We appreciated your patience as material supply shortages forced us to delay the start of the project.

We awarded a contract to VF Anderson earlier this year to construct geometric improvements at **135th Street and Pflumm Road**. When complete, this intersection will have dual left-turn lanes and right-turn lanes in all directions. Construction is expected to begin later this year.

The **Kansas Avenue Streetscape** project will improve Kansas Avenue from Santa Fe Street to south of Cedar Street. We're building on downtown's appeal with decorative streetlights, brick crosswalks, and landscaping. The project will also construct the first protected two-way cycle track\* in Kansas, a key component of the

## TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS HAPPENING THROUGHOUT OLATHE

Downtown Active Transportation Master Plan. Construction is underway and will be substantially complete by the Johnson County Old Settlers event.

The **119th Street extension** is in the final design phase. The project will construct the missing east-west link of 119th Street between Woodland Road and Northgate Street, making it possible to travel 119th Street from the Missouri state line to K-7 Highway. Yes, there are drivers who use alternate routes just to avoid getting on the interstate highways. The extension will be a four-lane, divided arterial with a new bridge crossing over the west railroad tracks, further easing traffic flow. Utility relocations will likely begin this fall with the actual project construction estimated to start in 2023.

In addition to street network improvements, we're making it easier to travel via **electric vehicles** in Olathe, boosting connectivity of our neighborhoods. This summer we passed an ordinance clarifying where electric bikes and electric scooters can be used, including bike lanes, bike paths, and low-speed streets. A pilot program is also underway with Bird scooters. These vehicles are a transportation alternative to visit someone or run an errand.

### Street Preservation Pays Off

Work continues to keep Olathe in good condition. Mill and overlay resurfacing is underway on 31 lane miles of our local and collector streets, 24 lane miles of arterial streets, along with 61 lane miles of micro surface treatments on local



**Before** 2022 street maintenance on Walker Street, just south of Cedar



**After** street maintenance

and collector streets.

Regular street maintenance makes a tremendous impact in preserving Olathe's valuable network of streets and it saves money in the long term. Every \$1 invested in street preservation saves \$8 in future street reconstruction costs.

Nearly 70 percent of street maintenance during 2014-2021, has been funded by Olathe's street maintenance sales tax, which was approved by voters in 2013.

The City of Olathe will remain focused on your priority to improve travel throughout our community. A full list of current improvement projects is available at [OlatheKS.org/ConstructionMap](https://OlatheKS.org/ConstructionMap). Click on the Streets tab to see all transportation projects.

Sincerely,

*John Bacon*  
John Bacon  
Mayor



### \*What is a two-way cycle track?

Two-way cycle tracks are physically separated cycle tracks that allow bicycle movement in both directions on one side of the road. This will enhance safety and reduce the risk of bicyclists from being hit by motor vehicles. Now under construction along the east side of Kansas Avenue, it will also provide protection to bicyclists from motor vehicles entering and exiting street parking stalls.

## BIRD SCOOTERS NOW IN OLATHE

Nearly 50 electric Bird scooters “landed” in Olathe on July 18 at locations across the city. These eco-friendly transportation providers are activated with Bird’s mobile phone application at [Bird.co/how](https://bird.co/how). Users pay by the minute.

Riders must be at least 18 years of age and obey all standard rules of the road. Wearing helmets when riding the scooters is encouraged. A community partnership with Bird offers free transportation to health care and emergency workers and discounts to eligible individuals and select non-profit groups.

Learn more at [OlatheKS.org/Scooters](https://OlatheKS.org/Scooters)



Watch for the electric Bird scooters in Olathe.



## JOIN THE CITY OF OLATHE 2023 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT



**Citizen Budget Workshop, Budget Public Hearing**



**Proposed Budget Adoption**

## OLATHE PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION HOSTS SPORTSWRITER JOE POSNANSKI



The Library Foundation’s “A Taste of Literacy” dinner and author event will be Saturday, Oct. 1 at the Indian Creek Library, 16100 W. 135th St. This year’s speaker will be *New York Times* bestselling author, Joe Posnanski. In his 30-year sportswriter career, Posnanski has written for *The Athletic*, *Sports Illustrated*, *NBC Sports*, and *The Kansas City Star*. He was named National Sportswriter of the year by five organizations, won two Emmy Awards, and was given a lifetime achievement award by the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum. Posnanski will talk about his forthcoming book, *Why We Love Baseball*, his love of libraries, and his favorite books.

A social hour with cash bar will begin at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. and the author presentation at 7 p.m. The Olathe North High School Culinary Arts Program will cater a surf and turf meal.

Individual tickets to the event are \$75 each. Sponsorships are also available. Tickets can be purchased at [OlatheLibrary.org/ATasteOfLiteracy](https://OlatheLibrary.org/ATasteOfLiteracy)

## Olathe FAST FACT

City of Olathe employees provide exceptional customer services.

In 2021, customer service representatives answered 111,082 calls, with 89 percent answered in less than 20 seconds.

## IMPORTANT CITY PHONE NUMBERS

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

[OlatheKS.org/ServicesDirectory](https://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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## TRAVELING SAFELY TO AND FROM SCHOOL

With the school year upon us, the Olathe Police Department wants to remind parents and students ways to stay safe when going to school this year.

Parents should help plan a safe route to school by walking or biking the route to identify any possible hazards a child may encounter. Choose the most direct way with the fewest street crossings and, if possible, with traffic-controlled intersections. They will also want to identify a “go to” safe place should their child need help.



### Walking or Biking to School

Tell your child/children to:

- Pay special attention to all traffic signals and crossing guards.
- Never cross the street against a red light, even if you don't see any traffic coming.
- Wear reflective clothing and bright colors so drivers can see you more easily.
- Walk or bike with a friend. It is safer and more fun.
- Always wear a bicycle helmet.
- Wear backpacks tightly on the upper back to avoid dragging them on the rear tire.
- Lock your bike with a bike lock when you get to school.

### If You're Driving

- When a school bus is stopped with the stop sign extended from the driver's window you must stop immediately, no matter what direction you are traveling.
- Be very aware when school is back in session, as children will be walking to and from schools and bus stops.
- Watch for children entering the street from behind buses or running to catch the bus.
- When driving your children to school, drop them off and pick them up as close to the school as possible.
- Don't leave your children until they are safely on school grounds.
- Drive slowly when approaching children who are riding bicycles and walking near the street.
- Watch your speed when entering school zones.

## COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT OFFERS HOME REPAIR ASSISTANCE

Residents who need assistance completing home repairs may want to consider programs Olathe's Community Enhancement Division offers to eligible property owners.

### Deferred Loan

A deferred loan program is available for major home repairs. Monthly loan payments are not required and the loan is deferred until the property is sold, the title transfers, or the property use changes from a primary residence to a rental property.

### Emergency Repairs

When repairs left undone pose a threat to health and safety, the emergency repair program can help eligible property owners. Example repairs include a collapsed sewer line, damaged roof, or furnace.



To learn more about the programs' policies and procedures, contact Housing Rehabilitation, 200 W. Santa Fe, 913-971-6268. Or, visit [OlatheKS.org/OlatheConnect](https://OlatheKS.org/OlatheConnect)

## WHAT'S BEING BUILT IN OLATHE



### Whataburger

The new restaurant is approved for south of 135th Street and east of Greenwood Street, adjacent to Menards. The business will include drive-through service and construction will start in the near future.

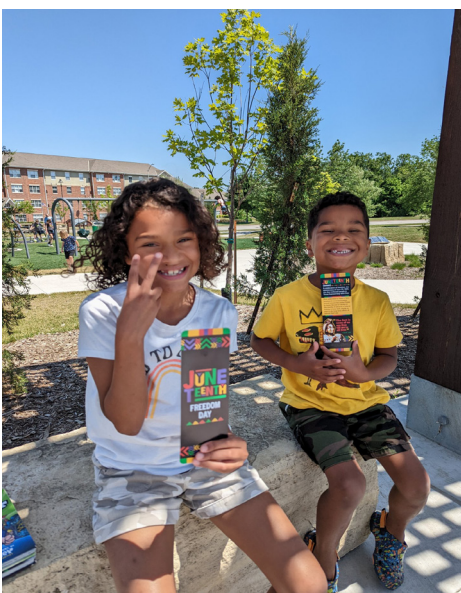


### Dutch Bros Coffee

Dutch Bros Coffee, originally from Grants Pass, Oregon, is bringing three locations to Olathe. The coffee shops will be located near 135th and Greenwood Street, 151st and Mahaffie Street, and College Boulevard and Lone Elm Road. Customers are served by drive-through window and walk-up window only.



# WHAT A SUMMER! Olathe residents kept active this summer throughout the city.





# PROTECTING OUR WATER QUALITY



Photo: Lake Olathe Splash Park, City of Olathe Senior Park Maintenance Worker Jessica Robbs

## KEEP THE FROG OUT OF YOUR DRAIN PIPES

### NO FROG = NO CLOG

What kind of frog would be in pipes? We're referring to the leading causes of slow drains, backups, and overflows in the sanitary sewer — **Fats, Rags (wipes), Oils, and Grease**. Food waste grease is one of the biggest contributors to buildup in pipes and sewer lines, eventually blocking wastewater flow. Baby wipes, cleaning wipes, and paper towels are NOT flushable (despite packaging claims). They cause blockages, make blockages harder to clear, and damage expensive wastewater pumps.

You can help avoid blockages and the unpleasant experience of a backup with smart household practices:

- Never flush wipes or paper towels. Only the 3 Ps – Pee, Poop, and (toilet) Paper.
- Dry wipe grease from pots and pans with a paper towel before washing.
- Keep fatty food scraps out of the kitchen sink and place them in the trash instead.
- Recycle leftover cooking oil. Schedule an appointment with the Household Hazardous Waste staff at [OlatheKS.org/HHW](http://OlatheKS.org/HHW)



The fats and grease placed down the drain cause backups in sanitary sewer lines.

## STREET SWEEPERS ARE WATER QUALITY SUPER HEROES

It seems obvious that these trucks help sweep the streets of debris, hence the name "street sweeper." But, they do so much more.

These trucks are part of our Stormwater Division and they help prevent flooding, storm system backups, and keep contaminants from entering our creeks and streams!



## HAVE A SAY IN FUTURE PARKS AND RECREATION



In Olathe, parks and recreation programs are tremendous assets that contribute to quality living. Creating and maintaining places and programs for all ages and

abilities is one of the strategies to maintain that quality of life. An updated Olathe Parks and Recreation Master Plan is now underway to guide future parks, park redevelopment, open spaces, facilities, and recreation opportunities.

Last updated in 2014, the master plan has numerous recent accomplishments, including:

- Olathe Community Center
- Lake Olathe Park redevelopment with Eagles Landing, the marina, and more
- Five new neighborhood parks and refreshes at nine parks

- Lone Elm Park redevelopment with a new concession building, playgrounds, restrooms, and other features
- Meadow Lane Trail and Cedar Creek Trail (in progress)

Residents are encouraged to participate in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan's update. In addition to public workshops, a survey will be mailed to randomly-selected residents, and will be followed by an online survey available to all.

Visit [OlatheKS.org/ParksRecPlan](http://OlatheKS.org/ParksRecPlan) for the latest information and a link to the survey once it's available.

# OLATHE COMPLYING WITH NEW WATER REGULATIONS

Providing customers safe, quality drinking water is a top priority for the City of Olathe. The drinking water Olathe produces meets or exceeds state and federal safety levels.

The City is currently conducting an inventory of water service line materials to comply with the recently revised Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) lead and copper rule. The revised rule requires all public water systems to identify the material of both private and public water service lines.

The City may contact you requesting your help in identifying your home's service line material. This summer, water customers in Olathe's oldest neighborhoods received the

first letters requesting customers' assistance with the new regulation. The letters detail how to find and submit that information in an in-home inspection survey, which can be found at [MyWaterLine.OlatheKS.org](http://MyWaterLine.OlatheKS.org)

The City of Olathe is working off a federal timeline to comply with the new rule. Residents' timely assistance in completing the in-home inspection survey for the revised lead and copper rule is greatly appreciated.

## What if my home has a lead or galvanized water line?

First, this does NOT mean you have lead in your drinking water. Olathe's water production processes eliminate the potential harm and risk for lead in drinking water. If it is determined you have a lead or galvanized service line, the City will provide guidance on a replacement plan that comes at no cost to homeowners.

## Will the City test my drinking water?

Yes. The City of Olathe is committed to keeping drinking water safe. Call 913-971-8843 and City staff can set up an appointment to sample and test

your water. The City of Olathe has its own environmental laboratory that can provide quick results.

Please note this service is only for City of Olathe water customers only.

## How do I know if my home has a lead service line?

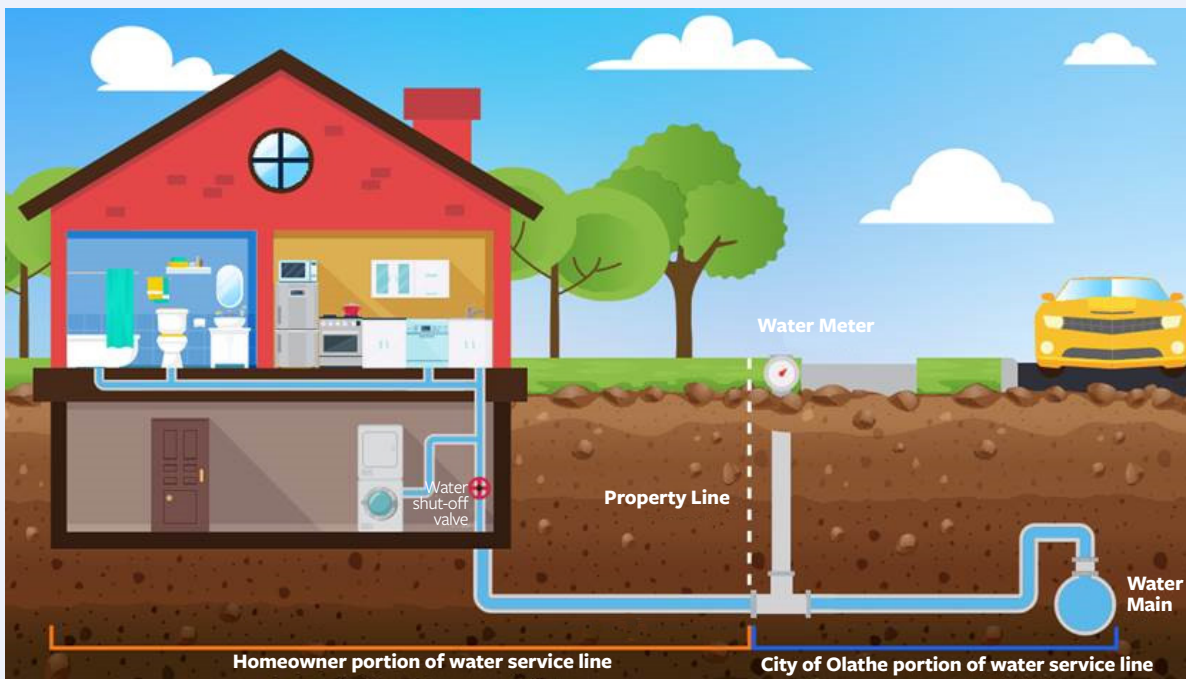
Water service line materials may be determined by several factors, including:

- The year your home was built
- The year your home or property first got water service
- The year your home was renovated, or a new home was built on the property.

Lead service line installation was prohibited in 1986 and became effective

in 1988. If your home was built after 1988 with a new water connection, you should not have a lead service line. Copper service lines became popular in the 1960s so many homes built before 1988 do not have lead service lines. The in-home inspection survey, provided as a link in the City letters, contains photos to help identify the service line material.

For questions, to request a paper survey, or for more information, visit [OlatheKS.org/WaterLines](http://OlatheKS.org/WaterLines) or contact Megan Spence, City of Olathe distribution compliance manager, at [MESpence@OlatheKS.org](mailto:MESpence@OlatheKS.org) or 913-971-8843.



A new EPA regulation requires the City of Olathe to identify the materials from which water service lines are made, **both** the homeowner and the public portion.

The City is sending letters to water customers asking their assistance. Residents can help by completing an in-home inspection survey.



[MyWaterLine.OlatheKS.org](http://MyWaterLine.OlatheKS.org)





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](http://OlatheKS.org).**

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Apps available on the App Store and Google Play



# September 24

7:30 AM | Lake Olathe Park  
445 S. Ward Cliff Dr.

Registration now open!  
\$90 per athlete

Deadline to register is Sept. 22

[OlatheKS.org/LakeOlatheTri](http://OlatheKS.org/LakeOlatheTri)

