

EARLY SPRING 2023



Photo: Entry feature, Parks Craftsperson Jessica Robbins

STREET MAINTENANCE AND PARKS FUNDING RENEWALS GO BEFORE OLATHE VOTERS

This spring, voters will consider continuing the 3/8 cent Street Maintenance Sales Tax and the 1/8 cent Parks Sales Tax, primary funding sources for these two service areas. Both proposed renewals have a 10-year expiration. A mail-in ballot will have two separate questions about each sales tax. Including both questions in one election cycle is more cost-effective than separate elections in successive years. The ballots must be returned to the Johnson County Election Office by noon, April 25, 2023.

Voters approved the Street Maintenance Sales Tax in 2013. During the past 10 years, the current sales tax has funded 70 percent of Olathe street maintenance, generating an average of \$11.7 million annually. A total 905 lane miles were preserved from 2014-2021 through various street maintenance processes, such as mill and overlay, micro surfacing, crack seal, and curb replacement. In the 10-years before the sales tax, 138.7 total lane miles were preserved. The current sales tax sunsets March 31, 2024. *Continued on page 3*

KEY DATES

Sales Tax Renewal Ballots

April 5
Ballots Mailed

April 24
Last Day to Register to Vote

April 25
by Noon
Ballots Due

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Visit OlatheKS.gov and click on **NEWS** for additional Olathe news.



Street Maintenance & Parks
Sales Tax Renewal Opportunity

Visit OlatheKS.gov/SalesTaxRenewal for more information.





MAYOR'S MESSAGE

From bustling community events to a quiet day at home with a library book, the world of Olathe volunteers is felt everywhere. They shovel snow for senior and disabled residents, assist our police officers at marathons and parades, and spend countless hours coaching our youth recreation leagues. Our volunteers contribute so much of their time, energy, and skills to better the lives of all Olathe residents, and they deserve a huge thank you.

The City of Olathe has an estimated 1,399 active volunteers who work in a variety of roles, both public facing and behind the scenes, providing services that enrich our quality of life.

Our youth recreation sports leagues have about 600 volunteer head coaches on sports fields and on the courts. We estimate these coaches are giving a combined 15,000 hours of service annually!



Olathe Public Library customers benefit from long-serving volunteers who expand community services. A new Olathe Public Library bookmobile will be delivered this year thanks to Friends of the Library volunteers, who raised \$75,000 through book sales and the

THREE CHEERS FOR OLATHE VOLUNTEERS

Indian Creek Library's book store. Teen volunteers help with special library programs, working with the public and behind the scenes.



Cindy Booz, an eight-year library volunteer, helped plan the Friends of the Library book store at the Indian Creek Library. She trains the all-volunteer book store staff.



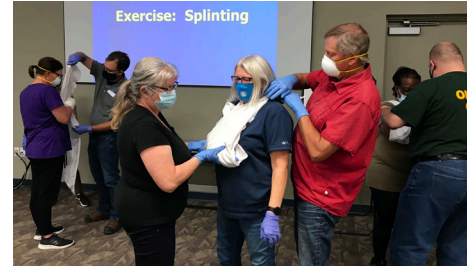
Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm Historic Site volunteer Anne Seitz has conducted research behind the scenes for 20 years. Staff and volunteers regularly tap into her research to accurately interpret life on the farm, Mahaffie family members, and others' lives during the city's early years.

Many Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm Historic Site programs would not exist without dedicated volunteers. Youth volunteers, ages 10-15, relate especially well with Mahaffie's many young visitors, showing what Olathe life was like in the 1860s through farm chores and play. These young people have pivotal roles at Mahaffie. In addition, 40 adults serve as the historic site's guides and many groups help with farm tasks like pulling weeds, planting and more.



Volunteer seamstresses at Mahaffie Historic Site create 1860s era costumes for staff and volunteers.

Should there be a community disaster in Olathe, first responders may be taxed to reach everyone and be everywhere needed because of blocked streets or disabled telecommunication. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers receive Olathe Fire Department training to assist in



Community Emergency Response Team volunteers receive first aid training among the post-disaster scenarios for which they prepare.

post-disaster response for medical operations, basic fire suppression, and light search and rescue. Since 2001, 3,000 individuals have prepared to help make Olathe a safe community.

The volunteer Citizens Police Advisory Council fills several community roles because of their unique relationship with the Olathe Police Department. This group provides valuable input on prospective Police policies, protocols, and public communication. In addition, they review incidents related to the public, including all biased-based policing complaints, and provide feedback for the department's consideration.

These examples represent just a fraction of the impact volunteers have in Olathe. Many services wouldn't be possible without their contributions. We're grateful for their time, talent and passion, and we sincerely thank them for their commitment to Olathe.

If you haven't figured out by now, we need more volunteers. If you are interested in becoming a City of Olathe volunteer visit OlatheKS.gov and select Volunteers under the Residents section. You'll find more information and applications.

Sincerely,

John Bacon
Mayor

STREET MAINTENANCE AND PARKS FUNDING RENEWALS GO BEFORE VOTERS (CONTINUED)

Voters first approved the Parks Sales Tax in 1999 with renewals in 2004 and 2014. During the current term, an average of \$3.7 million is generated annually. The most recent Parks Sales Tax renewal period has provided 25 improvement projects throughout the city, including large projects such as Lake Olathe and Lone Elm Parks, and repairs and refreshes at other parks.

In addition, approximately five miles of trails were built on the Meadow Lane Trail, Cedar Creek Trail, and Boulder Creek Trail. The current Parks Sales Tax expires March 31, 2025. Visit OlatheKS.gov/SalesTaxRenewal to learn more about the two sales tax renewal opportunities.

GRAND OPENING PREPARATIONS BEGIN FOR THE NEW DOWNTOWN LIBRARY

The Olathe Public Library is excited to announce the grand opening of the new Downtown Library on **Saturday, April 29**. The multi-story building, located at 260 E. Santa Fe, will total 46,600 square feet. In addition to core library services, it will feature a large flexbox space, a café, numerous meeting and study rooms, a rooftop terrace, and a special Olathe history collection.

Follow our progress and see updates at OlatheLibrary.org/dtlibrary

Temporary Downtown Location Closing

In preparation for the opening, the temporary Downtown Library's last day of service will be **Sunday, Feb. 26**. In the interim, please visit the Indian Creek Library at 16100 W. 135th St. When placing holds, customers can select the temporary space as a pickup location through Friday, Feb. 17. Any holds remaining upon closing on Feb. 26 will be moved to the Indian Creek Library.

Visit OlatheLibrary.org/dtlibrary for more details.



IMPORTANT CITY PHONE NUMBERS

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

OlatheKS.gov/Government/Facilities-Directory

EMERGENCY911

Emergency TDD/TTY Calls911

GENERAL INFORMATION
(TDD/Voice)971-8600

CUSTOMER SERVICE
(Billing, Trash, Water & Sewer)
1385 S. Robinson971-9311

FIRE ADMINISTRATION
(Non-Emergency)
1225 S. Hamilton Circle971-7900

OLATHE PUBLIC LIBRARY - Indian Creek
16100 W. 135th St.971-6835

OLATHE PUBLIC LIBRARY - Temporary Location
1078A W. Santa Fe971-6850

OLATHE PARKS & RECREATION /COMMUNITY CENTER (TDD/Voice)
1205 E. Kansas City Rd.971-8563

POLICE DEPARTMENT
501 E. 56 Highway971-7500

HUMAN RESOURCES
100 E. Santa Fe971-8735

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KING CELEBRATION RECOGNIZES STUDENT WORKS

More than 500 Olathe students entered the Martin Luther King, Jr. visual and written arts contest surrounding the theme **What Affects One Directly, Affects All Indirectly**. A community program on Jan. 15 awarded the winners. The Best in Show and other entries can be viewed at OlatheSchools.org.

STUDENT CONTEST WINNERS



Best in Show winner Austin Allen with Olathe Human Relations Commissioner Hector Silva

BEST IN SHOW

Austin Allen, Olathe South High School, multi-media entry titled “Affected Affection”

MIDDLE SCHOOL MULTI-MEDIA

First place: Honor Alvarez, Gissel Guerrero-Gomez and Alexandra Becerra-Flores, Indian Trail, “Directed”

Second place: Madelyn Bartlett, Frontier Trail, “What We Don’t See”

Third place: Aisha Rakhmonova, Indian Trail, “Blind Eyes”

MIDDLE SCHOOL WRITING

First place: Adah Anthonyamy, Prairie Trail, “Assimilate”

Second place: Adele Gibbens, Indian Trail, “The Ripple”

Third place: Rowen Nichols, Indian Trail, “Tomorrow is a New Day ... Maybe”

MIDDLE SCHOOL VISUAL ARTS

First place: Estella Stawarz, Frontier Trail, “The Heart of the World”

Second place: Savannah Gipson, Summit Trail, “All People are Worth It”

Third place: Helina Assgid, Summit Trail, “Justice for All”

HIGH SCHOOL MULTI-MEDIA

First place: Austin Allen, Olathe South, “Affected Affection”

Second place: Sam Moore, Olathe South, “The Spark”

Third place: Addison Dalton and Emma Augustine, Olathe South, “For Others”

HIGH SCHOOL WRITING

First place: Skylar Saragusa, Olathe South, “The Neighbor Next Door”

Second place: Aarushi Pore, Olathe North, “The Cycle”

Third place: Vanessa Perez-Jaramillo, Olathe West, “Sharing Kindness Affects All”

HIGH SCHOOL VISUAL ARTS

First place: Sophia Hinshaw, Olathe North, “Illuminating Love”

Second place: Ainsley Steenhard, Olathe North, “Inheritance”

Third place: Sadie Cleveland, Olathe North, “When Hope Grows”



OLATHE PUBLIC LIBRARY HOSTS DAY OF SERVICE

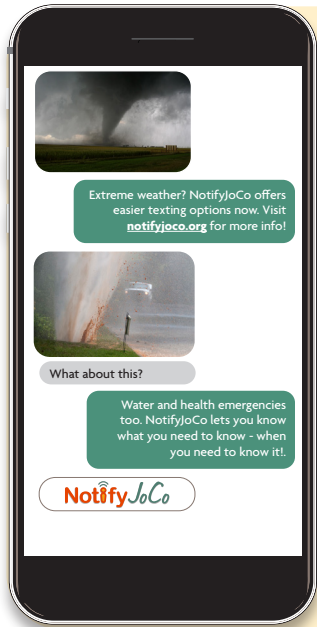
Families gathered for a Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Jan. 16 at both Olathe Public Library locations.

“This day is a great time to honor others and unite with activities for community-based service,” said Angela Parks, teen services manager.

Some made blankets for Olathe care center residents and handmade notes for Library to You customers, Johnson County Meal participants, and Olathe Health patients.

Others brought non-perishable food donations for the First Christian Church of Olathe Food Pantry or made toys for Olathe Animal Shelter animals.

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WHAT'S BEING BUILT IN OLATHE

Two new developments were recently approved at the southwest corner of College Boulevard and Lone Elm Road. Both developments are in the process of obtaining building permits and construction will begin soon.

Olathe Dental



Olathe Dental is approved to construct a new 13,351 square foot building with a total of three tenant spaces at 11104 S. Noble Dr.

New Horizon Academy



New Horizon Academy will open its second child daycare location in Olathe with their new 13,953 square foot facility at 21555 W. 112th Terr.

FIRE DEPARTMENT PROVIDES FREE “AT-HOME” ALTERNATIVE FOR MEDICATION DISPOSAL

Like other communities across the country, Olathe experienced an increase in emergency medical incidents related to the misuse of prescription and non-prescription drugs. To help promote the safe management and disposal of

medications, the Olathe Fire Department teamed up with the Johnson County Mental Health Center to provide free Deterra Drug Deactivation and Disposal Pouches to the community, while supplies last. These unique pouches use activated carbon adsorption to render medications inert and safe for disposal in normal household trash.

Similar to Community Drug Take Back Days, this initiative is intended to help prevent drug misuse while protecting the environment through the safe, permanent disposal of unused prescription and over-the-counter medications. These medications pose a risk of misuse and accidental poisoning. Improper disposal can potentially harm the environment and contaminate the water supply.

“I’m thrilled to be able to provide a safe way for community members to get rid of medications they no longer need. Our goal is to help prevent misuse or accidental overdoses by someone with

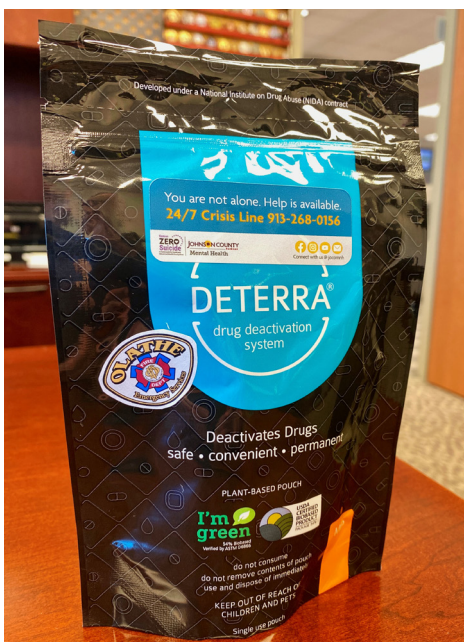
access to these drugs. We also love the idea that the Deterra pouches help protect the environment too,” said Olathe Fire Chief Jeff DeGraffenreid.

“We are happy to partner with the Johnson County Mental Health Center on this important program,” he adds.

How do the pouches work? A person deactivates their medications by placing them in a Deterra pouch, adding water, shaking it up and throwing it away. Most prescription drugs, pills, patches, liquids, creams, and films can be added to the pouch. Pouches should not be used with any drugs that come with specific disposal instructions, and no sharps should be placed in the bag.

Deterra pouches are available — while supplies last — at Olathe Fire Administration, 1225 S. Hamilton Circle, and all Olathe fire stations.

Johnson County Mental Health Center purchased the pouches with grant funds from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.



Deterra Drug Deactivation and Disposal Pouches

RESIDENTS CONTRIBUTE NEWEST SNOWPLOW NAMES

Olathe residents are so creative as evidenced in the recent winners selected in our snowplow naming contest.

CTRL+SALT+DELETE
 Betty Whiteout
 Scoop Dogg
 Sled Lasso
 Travis Kelsleet
 Big Leplowski
 Plowabunga

Lord Coldemort
 Snow Place Like Home
 Snow Big Deal
 Melton John
 Lightning McClean
 Isiah Plowcheco



YOUNG OLATHE ARTISTS

This season, three young artists provided designs and freshly painted artwork to grace our snowplow blades. Have you seen these plows on Olathe streets?

Top right: Pablo

Bottom left: Claire

Bottom right: Emmerson



COMING SOON - YOU CAN HELP REDUCE FOOD WASTE

In the United States, food waste is estimated at between 30-40 percent of the food supply and is the most common material going to municipal landfills.

The City of Olathe is currently piloting a food waste program to become part of the local solution. The program will launch this spring.

Learn more now at OlatheKS.gov/FoodWaste



UTILITIES MAINTENANCE TEAMS MAKE CRITICAL REPAIRS QUICKLY

During 2022, the City of Olathe experienced 152 water main breaks, 52 of which occurred since Oct. 1. This high volume in a brief period is unusual. It was prompted by extremely dry weather, which produces a shift in soil, impacting the pipes and causing them to break.

Making these repairs under normal conditions would be taxing, but Olathe's Utility Maintenance staff completed them with 10 out of 38 front line staff, employed with the City of Olathe for five months or less. Repairs were also made without the assistance of five open staff positions.

As if they didn't have enough on their plates, on Oct. 15 staff members responded to a damaged sewer force main and prevented sewage from flowing into Cedar Creek's Lake.

The Water Distribution and Wastewater

Collection teams are cross trained to perform water or sewer maintenance, and at one time or another have fixed a water main break. The teams have proven repeatedly that when it comes to being exceptional, they set the bar.



Cody Springston, scrapes the water main before installing a repair band.



After the water main repair was made, and before it was back filled.

Pictured left to right: Isaac Finch, John O'Hara, Jimmy Wichmann, Denton Lewis, Efrain Segovia, Cody Banks, Dionte Collins, Mike Richardson, Ryan Hughey, Logan Schuster, Barrett Davis, Dustin Gillespie, Mike Fitzwater, Kyle Patton, Christian Sewell, Ira Speer, Cody Springston, Kar Syhavong, Juan Guzman, Brandon Simmons, Levi Summer, Ken Auger, Vince Wolfe, Zach Hoehn, Kayden Hernadez, Rebecca Fauser, Dee Snyder, Mitchell, Martin, Alonzo Potts, Paul Timblin, Dylan Ginther, Jeremy Morrow, Chris Dankenbring, Dalton Kerr, Adam Gifford, Dakota Large, Lloyd Harold.

Not pictured: Rick Wyatt, Dave Wikerson, Rex Essig, Josh Oxley, Jenn Sitz, Tony Golec



PFLUMM ROAD IMPROVEMENTS UPDATE



Pflumm Road, 143rd Street to 151st Street, opened to traffic in early December.

All side street connections to Pflumm are open, except Summit Street. Intermittent lane drops should be expected until the overall project is complete, which is projected for spring 2023.

Work will continue in the area as sidewalks, streetlights, medians, sodding, and landscaping are completed.

P.O. Box 768
Olathe, Kansas 66051-0768
913-971-8700

OlatheConnect

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OlatheKS.gov/OlatheConnect

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BE THE FUTURE OF OLATHE

YOUR SUMMER STARTS HERE

Spend your summer with us! Apply for a job as a camp counselor, a youth sports official or a lifeguard and start your path with Olathe Parks & Rec. Visit us online for more employment info at OlatheKS.gov/Jobs.

