

EARLY AUTUMN 2023



Six new pickleball courts at Two Trails Park resulted from resident priorities expressed in the recent Parks & Rec survey.



OLATHE AWARDED GRANT FOR 119th STREET EXTENSION PROJECT

Olathe received a \$17,987,495 grant for the 119th Street Extension project, Northgate to Woodland Road. Rep. Sharice Davids announced the Federal Railway Administration grant award on June 6, supported through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's Railroad Crossing Elimination program. The 119th Street project will have an overpass for the west BNSF tracks and will provide a reliable and uninterrupted route from I-35 to K-7.

Once the 119th Street project is complete, the existing rail crossing at Woodland Road and Northgate will be eliminated and Woodland Road will be closed at the tracks.

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

BRINGING THE DOWNTOWN VISION TO LIFE



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Momentum is building in transforming Olathe's downtown to the place our community desires. The community-crafted Envision Olathe Downtown Plan calls for a vibrant area stimulated with private investment and new customers, one where downtown neighborhoods are strong and our central city area creates memories.

We are making great progress in that vision for Downtown Olathe. The beautiful, **new Downtown Library** is at the heart of our core neighborhoods, bringing new learning opportunities, experiences, and places to gather.

Further supporting opportunities to bring people together, the second phase of **Johnson County Square improvements** will soon be ready to host many gatherings with new amenities. Look for a new multipurpose



Rendering of Johnson County Square multipurpose platform

platform and an art garden play area at the northern end of the square. A new tree grove with seating will be at the southeast corner. The large community green space is the centerpiece of the square for public use and scheduled concerts, events, and other activities.

This fall, downtown will have plenty of ways you can make memories. You're invited to enjoy a full lineup of community activities.

Stop by the Downtown Library's outdoor patio for **Olathe Live! Over Lunch**. Musical artists perform each Tuesday, 11 a.m.- 1 p.m. through Oct. 24.

Fourth Fridays continues through Sept. 22, 6-9 p.m.

Johnson County Old Settlers' 125th year! Sept. 7-9.

Free Night at the Movies showing *Sing 2*, Sept. 15, on the Johnson County Square at sunset.

The **Olathe Arts Festival** returns downtown Oct. 6-7. This event features 60 fine artists from throughout the region, entertainment, and art activities

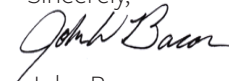
for children. Food and drinks will be available.

I hope to see you at one of these events in the coming months. You can find more information about other events at **OlatheKS.gov/Calendar**.

The City of Olathe continues to bring the Envision Olathe Downtown Plan to life through public-private investment. This year we are acquiring two downtown buildings, and hope to soon consider proposals for renovations for **new retail and entertainment offerings**. In addition, the City recently allocated \$10 million to encourage more **public-private partnerships for downtown redevelopment**. We have also received a boost from Topeka, as the Kansas Department of Commerce recently awarded a \$2 million Kansas Building a Stronger Economy (BASE) grant to the Olathe Chamber of Commerce for downtown development.

This is an exciting time for downtown and for all of Olathe. We've seen a great amount accomplished to realize this vision and more good things are on the horizon. On behalf of the City Council, thank you to all who have worked hard to ensure downtown's best future.

Sincerely,


John Bacon
Mayor

RECENT DOWNTOWN OLATHE MILESTONES

- 2003** City Hall opens at 100 E. Santa Fe St.
- 2008** East BNSF tracks raised
Expanded Downtown Parking Garage opens
- 2013** Santa Fe Streetscape Enhancements: Kansas City Road to west BNSF tracks
Civic Center Park opens
- 2018** Envision Olathe Downtown Plan updated
- 2020** Downtown Active Transportation Plan established
- 2021** New Johnson County Courthouse opened
- 2022** New Arrello Apartments opened
- 2022** Kansas Avenue Streetscape Enhancements: Cedar Street to Santa Fe
- 2023** New Downtown Library opened
- 2023** Johnson County Square – phase 2 completion coming soon

Continued from page 1

Residents south of 119th Street along Woodland Road will need to travel an additional 1.3-1.5 miles (about two minutes), and Woodland Road through traffic will have to travel an additional 0.5 miles (about 40 seconds). Currently, it is likely that travel time using the Woodland Road crossing can exceed two minutes because the west BNSF tracks are some of the busiest in the country, with 68 to 88 daily trains. Traffic is delayed a total of 10 hours daily in each direction.

During a train crossing, the rail crossing's proximity to the Woodland Road and Northgate intersection causes traffic backups extending to Northgate, causing potentially dangerous situations.

Construction of the 119th Street extension is expected to start in 2024. Visit [OlatheKS.gov/119Extension](https://www.olatheks.gov/119Extension) for more information.

What the 119th Street Extension Project Will Provide

- Fully connects the 119th Street corridor between K-7 and I-35
- Builds an overpass over the west BNSF tracks and Mill Creek
- Reconfigures the 119th Street and Northgate intersection with a new roundabout
- Updates the intersection of Northgate and Nelson to accommodate 119th Street improvements
- Improves 119th Street at the intersections of Lone Elm, Iowa, and Woodland with turn lane additions and signalized intersections
- Provides safe, reliable route free of interruptions from trains.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

We all have a role to play to keep Olathe a beautiful city.



TREE MAINTENANCE

- Severely damaged, dead or diseased trees must be removed.
- Limbs hanging lower than 13.5 feet over a street or 10 feet over a sidewalk must be trimmed.

Olathe Municipal Code Chapter 12.16.020



PUT LEAVES THEIR PROPER PLACE

- Leaves must be placed in the brown yard bags and placed at the curb for removal on your yard waste collection day.
- Leaves cannot be blown into the street or placed down the storm drain.
- Olathe residents can take yard waste to the Olathe Community Recycling Center, 1100 N. Hedge Lane.

[OlatheKS.gov/YardWaste](https://www.olatheks.gov/YardWaste)

IMPORTANT CITY PHONE NUMBERS

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

[OlatheKS.gov/Government/Facilities-Directory](https://www.olatheks.gov/Government/Facilities-Directory)

EMERGENCY911

Emergency TDD/TTY Calls911

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

Downtown Now Open!

260 E. Santa Fe St. 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 St..... 971-8735

OLATHE CITY COUNCIL

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2023 GENERAL FUND BUDGET

2023 KEY PROJECTS \$143,619,236

119th Street Improvements
 Woodland to Northgate

Street Preservation Program

Police Building Expansion

Downtown Library

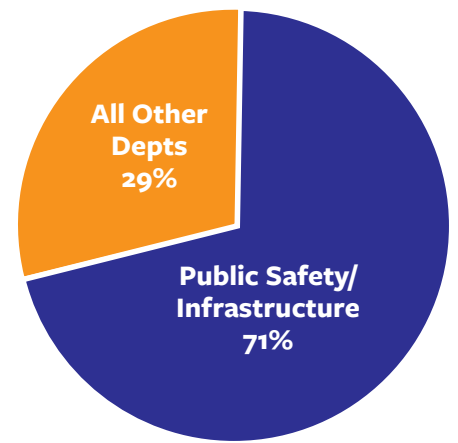
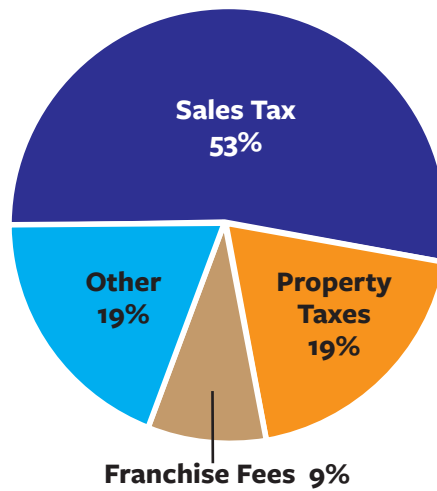
Olathe Girls
 Softball Association
 Parking Improvements

BUDGETED REVENUES

Sales Tax	\$ 69,141,535
Property Taxes	\$ 25,258,653
Franchise Fees	\$ 11,253,581
Other	\$ 24,620,461
Total	\$ 130,274,230

BUDGETED EXPENDITURES

Public Safety/ Infrastructure	\$ 92,651,072
All other departments	\$ 37,623,158
Total	\$ 130,274,230



WHAT'S BEING BUILT IN OLATHE



HEARTLAND COCA-COLA

Heartland Coca-Cola is constructing a new bottling and warehousing facility south of 167th Street and west of Hedge Lane. The project consists of more than 1.1 million square feet of office, production, and warehousing space, which will be completed in two phases. The facility is anticipated to open in late 2024.



CAMBER MENTAL HEALTH

A new mental health hospital will be constructed through a joint partnership between KVC Health Systems and Children's Mercy Hospital. The 72-bed inpatient facility will be located southwest of W. 153rd Street and OMC Parkway. The development includes 48 pediatric beds, 24 adult beds, outdoor courtyards, dining and activity spaces. The hospital is expected to open in late 2024.

2023 STREET MAINTENANCE

The Street Preservation Program is planning to complete projects on 98 lane miles this year, which is made possible with the Street Maintenance Sales Tax. This is the last full year to receive funding from the initial voter approved sales tax. The recent voter renewal will allow for a similar volume of work annually for the next 10 years.

Local & Collector Street Mill and Overlay Projects – 31 lane miles

Arterial Street Mill and Overlay Projects – 27 lane miles

Micro Surface Projects – 40 lane miles



Street maintenance with mill and pavement overlay is completed on Renner Road, near the north city limit.

STREET MAINTENANCE WORK IN HIGH GEAR

During construction season, be alert for lane closings and flaggers, who may stop traffic to allow heavy equipment access for street maintenance. You likely have already encountered arterial roadways receiving new pavement through a mill and overlay project.

These projects typically include asphalt surface replacement, asphalt base repairs, spot replacement of damaged curb and sidewalk, ADA compliant sidewalk ramps installation, pavement markings replacement, and traffic signal detection improvements. The following are the 2023 arterial projects and some of their additional improvements:

BLACK BOB ROAD – 135th Street to 151st Street

- New right turn lanes in each quadrant at 138th Street
- New southbound right turn lane at 139th Street

STRANG LINE ROAD – Rogers Road to north city limit

RENNER ROAD – Kansas City Road to north city limit

KANSAS CITY ROAD – Stagecoach Park to Santa Fe Street

159TH STREET – Lone Elm Road to 169 Highway

SANTA FE STREET – Parker Street to just west of Hedge Lane

In select locations these projects will also include eight-foot shared use paths, storm sewer improvements, and turn lane and median improvements.



The theme is Cowboys! for **Fall Homeschool Days Aug. 31 – Sept. 1.**

Cowboy activities are presented in stations, allowing visitors to peruse at their own pace. Participants are asked to register and pay admission ahead of time to allow quick access to the grounds. Admission is \$7 per student, for ages five and older. One adult is admitted free with each paid student.



The historical **Olathe Memorial Cemetery Tours are Sept. 21-23.**

Tours begin at 7 p.m., 7:30 p.m., and 8 p.m. and last approximately an hour. Tickets are \$7 and may be purchased at the Heritage Center, 1200 E. Kansas City Rd. (Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.), or by phone, 913-971-5111. See Facebook or the website for the tour theme announcement.



The **Chuckwagon Cookoff returns on Oct. 14.** Visitors may visit each chuckwagon and vote for their favorites in each category at noon. While on the farm visitors can observe or help with the sorghum harvest and processing. It will be a delicious day at Mahaffie!

Visit Mahaffie.org for more information.

Lake Olathe Triathlon
Sept. 23 • 7:30 A.M.

Sanctioned by USAT, this challenging course will take triathletes through scenic Lake Olathe Park. The three-part competition consists of a 500-meter swim, 10.45-mile bike and 2.7-mile run in and around Lake Olathe.

For more information, visit OlatheKS.gov/LakeOlatheTri.

Olathe Healthy Neighborhoods
 PRESERVE | PROTECT | ENHANCE

REGISTER YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD TODAY!

Registered Olathe 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 you and your neighbors stay informed, providing opportunities to connect and comment on important projects that may affect your neighborhood.

Visit OlatheKS.gov/HealthyNeighborhoods or contact the Planning Division at 913-971-8750 for more information and to register your neighborhood today!

PROGRESS AS PROMISED

I-35 & Santa Fe Corridor

Behind the scenes work continues on the I-35 and Santa Fe Corridor project to improve the capacity and safety for current and future traffic volumes. In addition to the interchange area, the project includes Santa Fe Street between Ridgeview Road and Mur-Len Road.

The project team is currently evaluating corridor alternatives and finalizing the environmental process. In addition, funding opportunities are being explored.

Two public project meetings have occurred and another meeting is planned this fall.

Visit OlatheKS.gov/SantaFe for the most recent project information.

Alex GEORGE
 AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR, BOOKSELLER AND LITERARY FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

A Taste of Literacy
 Olathe Public Library Foundation

Saturday, September 23, 2023
 6:00 pm, at Indian Creek Library

Dinner catered by
 the Olathe North High School Culinary Arts Program

Alex George, an award-winning author, bookseller and literary festival director, will speak on the importance of Literary Citizenship, a philosophy that creates a culture of reading and encourages support for the literary community.

OlathePublicLibrary

Individual tickets are \$75 with sponsorships available. Purchase tickets and sponsorships at OlatheLibrary.org/ATasteofLiteracy



Langan Winder



Noah Byard

RECYCLING TRUCK ART CONTEST WINNERS

The City of Olathe recently held a recycling truck art contest on social media where kids submitted artwork based on, “what recycling in Olathe means to them.” Langan and Noah were chosen as winners and recently got to see their artwork on the trucks!

SAFETY TIPS FOR BACK-TO-SCHOOL WALKING OR BIKING



Back to school time calls for extra safety precautions as students travel to and from schools. The Olathe Police Department reminds parents and students of ways to stay safe. 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. Parents should identify a “go-to” safe place in case their child needs help.

Tell your 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.
- Walk or bike with a friend. It is safer and more fun.

- Always wear a bicycle helmet.
- Wear reflective clothing and bright colors so drivers can see you more easily.
- 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.

IMPROVEMENTS ADDRESS SCHOOL SAFETY

The Safe Routes to School program helps identify priority locations for sidewalk construction. In 2022, the City of Olathe partnered with the Kansas Department of Transportation and the Mid-America Regional Council to help fund missing sidewalk links. Sidewalks were constructed in the Clearwater Creek Elementary School and Oregon Trail Middle School areas.

In total, the City constructed 3,450 ft. of sidewalk in 2022, which was not associated with street improvements.

In 2022, new rapid flashing beacons were installed at:

- 159th Street and Brougham Drive
- 159th Street and Pflumm Road
- Santa Fe Street and Hedge Lane

The rapid flashing beacons alert drivers to pedestrians who wish to cross a street at a marked crosswalk where no other traffic signal is present.



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

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Apps available
on the App Store
and Google Play



**DOWNTOWN
OLATHE**

OCTOBER 6-7, 2023

OCT 6 | 1-8 P.M.

OCT 7 | 10 A.M.-8 P.M.

**Fine artists, interactive activities, live music,
performances, food & drink, and more!**

OlatheKS.gov/ArtsFestival